

An identification guide to weevils of Britain and Ireland

Part 2. Weevils with straight antennae: Apionidae

Draft 1.03



The weevils with straight antennae (**orthocerous weevils**) comprise 114 species in Britain and Ireland, plus a few extinct or casual species. This guide covers our 87 species of weevils in the family **Apionidae**. Part 1 covers the remaining species with straight antennae (Rhynchitidae and allies).

In this guide to the species, the species are arranged by genus or other similar groups. Each group has a brief summary of its main identification features, followed by a **Compare** section that lists groups or species that might be confused with it, and tells you how they differ. The species are arranged in tables, with a brief summary of their important features, and another Compare list. **You should check both Compare lists:** some confusable species will not be included in the list for the species if they have already been dealt with in the list for the genus or group.

Many of the features are comparative: darker, paler, wider, narrower, more pointed, blunter. The illustrations will show you what the differences mean. Some of the features are not easy to see on an illustration of a whole weevil. If you want more detail, you can see or download the original high resolution photos in the Apionids album at <https://tinyurl.com/weevilalbums>. The originals may be particularly useful for differences in hairs or surface sculpture. Two of the species are illustrated by photos by Lech Borowiec or Udo Schmidt.

As ever with weevils, **size is measured from the front of the eyes to the tip of the wing-cases**.

Identifying weevils from specimens is so much easier if they are set neatly. I cannot emphasise this strongly enough. **Do not pin, point, or pickle weevils.** Set them on card, with the head, legs, and antennae in standard positions. This makes it easy to compare them with each other. I have seen many specimens that are unidentifiable or difficult because the features are obscured or at an odd angle. **Do not make things difficult for yourself.** Weevils are often stiff when they are dead, and you will not be able to set them in a good position. You can relax them by placing them in a sealed tube or container with a tissue soaked in clear vinegar. After a day or several they should be relaxed and easily manipulated into a standard position. The scales can become dark or discoloured if they get covered in vinegar, so try to keep the weevil away from the tissue and any condensation.

Maps show distribution in Britain in 50 km squares, from the weevil recording scheme database, courtesy of Adrian Fowles. ○ Last recorded before 1930. ● Last recorded before 1970. ● Last recorded before 2000. ● Recorded since 2000. This is not a complete picture of distribution but it gives you a good idea of how widespread a species is. An apology to anyone using this guide in Ireland: this guide covers all the species found in Ireland, so you can use it to identify Irish weevils, but the maps, statuses, and comments on abundance and habitat refer only to Britain. I am afraid do not know enough about weevils in Ireland to include the same information for Ireland.

How you can help improve this guide

The Compare lists include those species or groups that I think might be confused with a species. If you find that you cannot tell whether your weevil is one species or another that I have not included in the Compare lists, please let me know and I can include them in Compare lists in future updates.

Thanks to everyone who has shared their records with the weevil recording scheme. The scheme and others will be pleased to accept your records via [iRecord](#).

Thanks to Peter Hodge for the loan of some of the specimens illustrated here. The research for this guide was done mostly in the Insect Room at the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology, in the Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity, and at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Thanks to the staff at Cambridge, Oxford, and the Natural History Museum for allowing me such free access to their superb collections: especially to Russell Stebbings, Ed Turner, Max Barclay, Florin Feneru, Amo Spooner, and Darren Mann.

Thanks to Lech Borowiec and Udo Schmidt for permission to use their photos. They retain the copyright in their images.


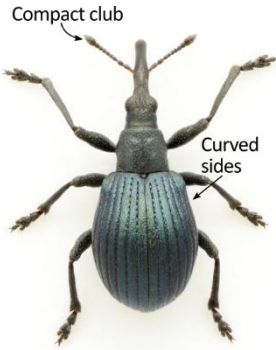

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Is it an Apionid?

Apionids are orthocerous weevils. Typical weevils and their allies have elbowed antennae: the first segment is usually much longer than the rest and is called the scape. The antennae are angled at the end of the scape, so they are elbowed. The orthocerous weevils are distinguished by their straight antennae: the first segment of the antennae is not that much longer than the rest, and they are not obviously elbowed. Some Apionids have a longer first segment, but it is barely more than twice as long as the rostrum is wide. Conversely, some elbowed species have a scape that is shorter than twice the rostrum width, but the antennae are still angled.

Most Apionids are plain black or metallic. There are five all-red species, and five patterned species, but the rest are dark and do not have any patterns on the wing-cases. Apion is Greek for pear, and the weevils are named for their **often pear-shape bodies**: the shoulders are often rounded, not very square, and the wing-cases have rather curved sides, often wider in the rear half. The **antennae are inserted in rear part of the rostrum, or only just in front of half-way**, whereas in the elbowed species, the antennae may be inserted in the front half, or even near the tip.

The weevils most likely to be confused with Apionids are the Rhynchitidae (see Part 1 of the species guides). The Rhynchitidae have a looser antenna club than Apionids, with obvious gaps between the segments of the club. Their shoulders are square, and their wing-cases are rather straight sided. Some Apionids have prominent shoulders, but they are not as square as those of the Rhynchitidae.







Typical weevils and allies Elbowed antennae (Parts 3-7)	Orthocerous weevils	
	Straight antennae: Apionidae (Part 2)	Straight antennae: Rhynchitidae and allies (Part1)
	 <p>Compact club</p> <p>Curved sides</p> <p>86 species. Antenna club compact, segments merge into each other. Usually have sides more curved, and shoulders less prominent than in Rhynchitidae. Hairs flat. Legs may be yellow.</p>	 <p>Loose club</p> <p>Straighter sides</p> <p>28 species. Antenna club loose, segments distinct. Sides usually straighter. Shoulders prominent. May be shaggy or bristly from erect hairs. Legs always dark.</p>

If your weevil has **any** of these features it is a **Rhynchitid** rather than an Apionid:

- Long erect hairs.
- Rostrum swollen and slightly flattened at tip.
- Larger than 5 mm.
- Horns on pronotum.

Not all Rhynchitids have these features. If in doubt, see Part 1 and compare the pictures of the Orthocerous weevils with those of the dark-legged Apionids following page 26 in this guide.

Some pitfalls

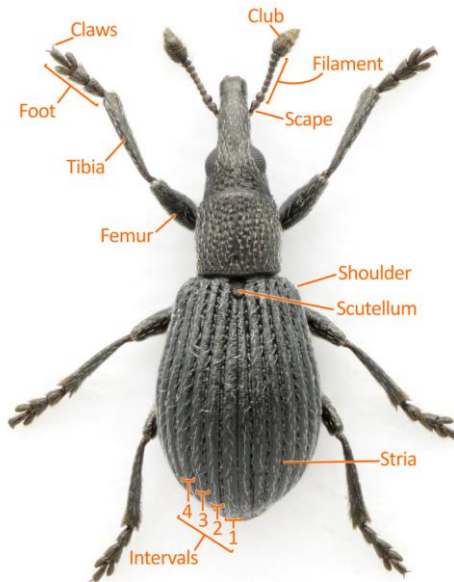
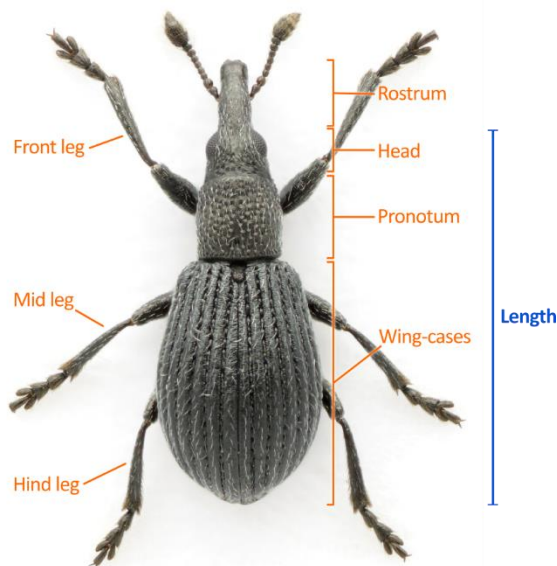
<p><i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i> is a Typical weevil with straight antennae, but is a distinctive species, with thick, matted hairs, and a long, sausage-shape body.</p> 	<p>Some flea weevils (Rhamphini) also have straight antennae, or a very short scape. They have eyes that touch or almost touch on top of their heads; swollen thighs; and in life their rostrums are tucked under their heads. The Apionidae have eyes on the sides of the head, well separated; and their rostrums are not tucked under their heads.</p>  
<p>Plain <i>Anthonomus</i> are plain red or black, like Apionids, but they have a very long scape, and straight-sided wing-cases with square shoulders. The antennae are inserted in front of half way.</p> 	<p>Some <i>Ceutorhynchus</i> are black or metallic, but they have a long scape, and wider pronotums.</p>  

Important: layout of the species accounts

Male and female Apionids often differ in rostrum size and shape, two characters that are important for species identification. In some groups of species the difference between males and females of the same species is greater than difference between species. To show these differences, males and females are illustrated for all species, if I had a specimen of both sexes. In the illustrations of whole weevils in the accounts, the **male is on the left, female is on the right**. If there is only one illustration, its sex, if known, is shown by M or F in the line below the illustration. If there three illustrations, their sexes are shown by MMF or MFF.

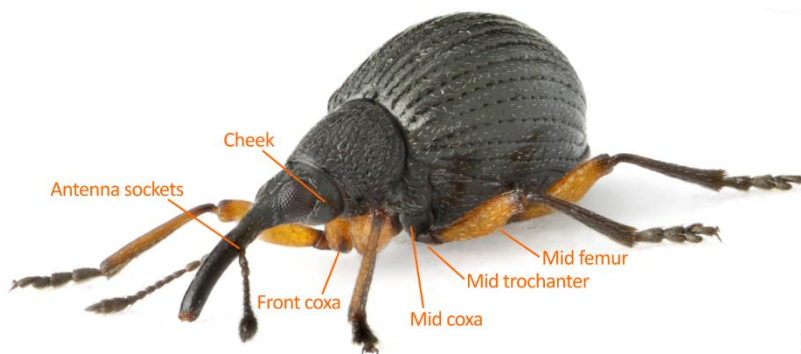
Asterisks indicate rarity of native species in Britain: * Scarce B (found in 31-100 10 km squares); ** Scarce A (found in 16-30 10 km squares); *** Rare (found in 1-15 10 km squares).

Parts of a weevil



Remember that in weevils, the **length (size)** is measured from the **rear of the wing-cases to the front of the eyes**. The wing-cases of all Apionids have narrow channels running down them: these are the striae. The part between two striae is the interval. At the front of the wing-cases there is a small shield-like feature: the scutellum. The first segment of the antenna is the **scape**, This is usually longer than any of the other segments. The **filament** is the section that starts at the second segment and ends at the base of the club.

Origins of some of the anatomical terms:
 rostrum = beak or snout
 stria = furrow
 scape = stalk
 scutellum = little shield
 coxa = hip
 pronotum = fore back.



In some Apionids, features of the legs are important. The legs arise from the coxae, which are like domes on the underside of the body. The next segment of the leg, is the trochanter. This is a short segment between the coxa and the femur.

Hairs

All Apionids have hairs on the wing-cases. In some they are so short and fine that they are hardly visible even with a ×40 microscope and good lighting. Others are obviously hairy when seen through a ×10 hand lens. Some are intermediate.

Obviously hairy



Ischnopterapion loti. Obviously hairy.



Betulapion simile. Obviously hairy.



Cyanapion afer. Obviously hairy, but hairs fine.

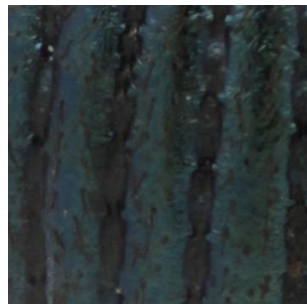


Holotrichapion aethiops. Obviously hairy, but hairs short and fine.

Intermediate



Melanapion minimum. Hairs long but fine. May or not be obviously hairy.

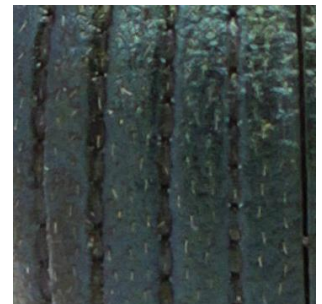


Holotrichapion pisi. Hairs dark and fine: hardly visible.

Apparently hairless



Protapion ononidis. Hairs very short and fine, hardly visible.

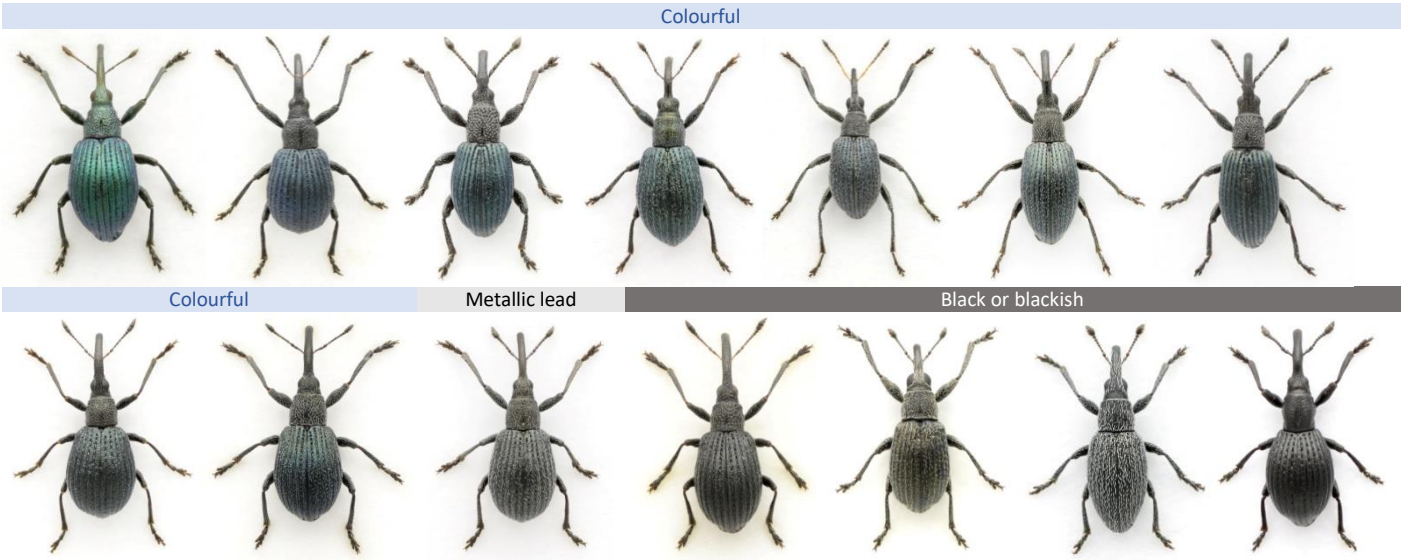


Eutrichapion punctiger. Hairs very short and fine: hardly visible.

There is usually a clear distinction between the obviously hairy species and those that have hardly visible hairs, but there are a few species that might be called hairy or not hairy. However, whether you call *Cyanapion afer* obviously hairy or not, it still has shorter and finer hairs than *Ischnopterapion loti*. The full size photos of the specimens show these differences. You can see them here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/84259756@N05/albums/72157663739513686>.

Colour

Some species are black, others are clearly colourful. The colourful species may be obviously blue or green, or they may be black with a distinct blue or green hue. Rarely, the colour is purple or red. *Ischnopterapion loti* and *modestum* are metallic lead, so the wing-cases are not deep black, but they have a greyish rather than clearly blue hue. Like hairiness, colour is a continuum, but the series below shows where the distinction between colourful and black or blackish lies (with metallic lead in-between). This a distinction that becomes a lot clearer when you have experience or a series of specimens to compare. Where there is likely to be uncertainty, I have included the species in both colourful and blackish routes in a key or table, so do not worry if it is not clear to you whether your weevil is colourful or black.



Rostrum

The shape and length of the rostrum are very important in identifying Apionids. Is the rostrum **short** (shorter than the head and pronotum combined), **medium** (about as long as or slightly longer than head and pronotum), or **long** (clearly longer than head and pronotum)? Is it strongly downcurved or rather straight? Are the sides, seen from above, rather **straight** and parallel, are they **tapered**, or are they more **wavy**, being **narrowed** or pinched in before or after then antenna bases? Is the rostrum **narrow** or **broad**, **slender** or **thick**?

Antennae

The point where the antennae are inserted is a very useful character. This is given as a fraction of the length of the rostrum, so antennae at ¼, ⅓, or ½, means antennae are inserted around a ¼, ⅓, or ½ way along the rostrum. As with rostrum shape, this often varies between males and females.

Foodplants

All Apionids develop on one or a few species of plants. The adults are often found on these species, so they are a good clue to identification, but remember that adult weevils do not necessarily stay on their larval foodplants. Legumes are particularly well represented in this list, with various clovers and vetches supporting many species of Apionids.

Asteraceae	<i>Centaurea</i>	knapweeds	<i>Ceratapion armatum</i>
Asteraceae	<i>Cirsium, Carduus, Onopordum</i>	thistles	<i>Ceratapion onopordi, Ceratapion carduorum, Ceratapion gibbirostre</i>
Asteraceae	<i>Filago</i>	cudweeds	<i>Acentrotypus brunnipes</i>
Asteraceae	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Diplapion stolidum</i>
Asteraceae	<i>Tripleurospermum, Anthemis, Matricaria</i>	mayweeds	<i>Diplapion confluens, Omphalapion beuthini, Omphalapion hookerorum, Omphalapion laevigatum</i>
Betulaceae	<i>Betula</i>	birches	<i>Betulapion simile</i>
Cistaceae	<i>Helianthemum</i>	Rock-rose	<i>Helianthemapion aciculare</i>
Crassulaceae	<i>Sedum</i>	Stonecrops	<i>Aizobius sedi</i>
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	<i>Kalcapion semivittatum</i>
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	<i>Kalcapion pallipes</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	<i>Pirapion immune, Exapion fuscirostre, Protopirapion atratum</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Genista anglica</i>	Petty Whin	<i>Exapion genistae</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Greenweed	<i>Exapion difficile</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Ulex</i>	gorses	<i>Stenopterapion scutellare, Exapion ulicis, Pirapion immune, Exapion fuscirostre, Protopirapion atratum</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>	Wild Liquorice	<i>Pseudoprotapion astragali</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Lotus</i>	bird's-foot-trefoils	<i>Ischnopterapion loti, Synapion ebeninum, Ischnopterapion modestum</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Medicago</i>	medicks	<i>Holotrichapion pisi, Stenopterapion tenue, Protapion filirostre</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Melilotus</i>	melilots	<i>Stenopterapion meliloti</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	<i>Hemitrichapion reflexum, Stenopterapion intermedium</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Ononis</i>	rest-harrows	<i>Holotrichapion ononis, Protapion ononidis</i>

Fabaceae	<i>Trifolium</i>	clovers	<i>Catapion curtisii</i> , <i>Catapion seniculus</i> , <i>Ischnopteration virens</i> , <i>Protapion assimile</i> , <i>Protapion difforme</i> , <i>Protapion schoenherri</i> , <i>Protapion trifolii</i> , <i>Protapion dissimile</i> , <i>Protapion apricans</i> , <i>Protapion varipes</i> , <i>Protapion fulvipes</i> , <i>Protapion laevicollis</i> , <i>Catapion pubescens</i> , <i>Protapion nigrirarsis</i>
Fabaceae	<i>Vicia</i> and <i>Lathyrus</i>	vetches	<i>Cyanapion gyllenhalii</i> , <i>Cyanapion spencii</i> , <i>Eutrichapion vorax</i> , <i>Eutrichapion punctiger</i> , <i>Holotrichapion aethiops</i> , <i>Oxystoma cerdo</i> , <i>Oxystoma cracca</i> , <i>Oxystoma pomonae</i> , <i>Eutrichapion viciae</i> , <i>Cyanapion afer</i> , <i>Eutrichapion ervi</i> , <i>Oxystoma subulatum</i>
Hypericaceae	<i>Hypericum</i>	St John's-worts	<i>Pseudoperapion brevirostre</i>
Lamiaceae	<i>Mentha</i>	mints	<i>Squamapion vicinum</i>
Lamiaceae	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	<i>Squamapion flavimanum</i>
Lamiaceae	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	<i>Squamapion cineraceum</i>
Lamiaceae	<i>Thymus</i>	thymes	<i>Squamapion atomarium</i>
Malvaceae	<i>Malva</i>	mallows	<i>Aspidapion radiolus</i> , <i>Aspidapion aeneum</i> , <i>Malvapion malvae</i> , <i>Pseudapion rufirostre</i>
Malvaceae	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	Hollyhock	<i>Rhopalapion longirostre</i> , <i>Aspidapion radiolus</i>
Malvaceae	<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	Marsh-mallow	<i>Aspidapion soror</i>
Plumbaginaceae	<i>Limonium</i>	Sea-lavenders	<i>Pseudaplemonus limonii</i>
Polygonaceae	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> agg.	Knotgrass	<i>Perapion lemoroi</i>
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex</i>	docks and sorrels	<i>Perapion curtirostre</i> , <i>Perapion hydrolapathi</i> , <i>Perapion violaceum</i> , <i>Apion frumentarium</i>
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	<i>Perapion affine</i> , <i>Apion cruentatum</i>
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's-sorrel	<i>Perapion marchicum</i> , <i>Apion haematodes</i> , <i>Apion rubens</i> , <i>Apion rubiginosum</i>
Salicaceae	<i>Salix</i>	willows	<i>Melanapion minimum</i>
Santalaceae	<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	<i>Ixapion variegatum</i>
Urticaceae	<i>Urtica</i>	nettles	<i>Taeniapion urticarium</i>

Likely suspects

The most commonly recorded and widespread Apionids. *Ischnopteration loti* and *Perapion curtirostre* are particularly common, but have no striking features. They are worth getting to know so you can eliminate them from your enquiries.

Protapion fulvipes



Exapion ulicis



Ischnopteration loti



Perapion curtirostre



Protapion apricans



Apion frumentarium



Protapion assimile



Ceratopion onopordi



Perapion hydrolapathi



Perapion violaceum



Eutrichapion ervi



Ischnopteration virens



Protapion trifolii



Ceratopion gibbirostre



Start here: index to groups of Apionidae

The species in this guide are arranged in five groups. Place your weevil in a group, then go to the page indicated.

All-red or -yellow Apionids

page 7

Plain red, orange, or yellow. 5 species.



Apionids with patterned wing-cases

page 10

Wing-cases with stripes, bands, or black and orange. 5 species.



Apionids with yellow-legs and plain wing-cases

page 12

At least front femurs and tibiae yellow-brown, wing-cases plain. 29 species.



Apionids with black or metallic legs

page 26

Legs blackish or metallic*. 58 species.



**Squamapion* may have brown front tibiae, but the femurs are blackish.

If you want to try using a key to identify your weevil, there is a separate key at <https://tinyurl.com/weevilguides>.

All-red or -yellow Apionids


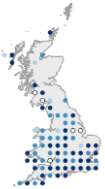
The five species of *Apion*. Immediately recognisable by being **plain red, orange, or yellow** apart from black eyes and claws.

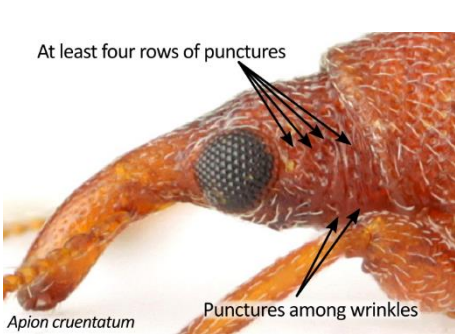
Apion

Apion = pear

Plain red or orange. Claws with a tooth. On docks or sorrels. *Do not be misled by the colour of the specimens shown here: colour varies within each species, so use shape and size to identify your weevil.* [Compare](#) No other Apionids are plain red or orange all over.

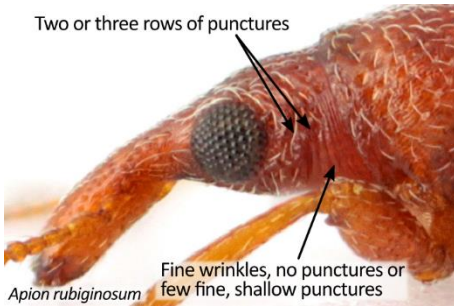
Two larger species. **Cheeks punctured** all the way to the rear. **See key to Apion on next page.**

Apion frumentarium		Apion cruentatum	
			
3.3-4.4 mm		2.7-3.3 mm	
frūmentārium = of grain		F	
Largest Apion. Head cone-shape, tapering from rear to eyes. Cheeks long, so eyes set further forward than in other Apion.		Shares punctured cheeks with frumentarium.	
On docks Rumex subgen, Rumex. Very common.		On Common Sorrel Rumex acetosa. Common.	
Compare Apion cruentatum (smaller; sides of head straight; eyes set further back). Other Apion (smaller; sides of head straight; eyes set further back; cheeks wrinkled, not punctured).		Compare Apion frumentarium (larger; head cone-shape; eyes set further forward). Other Apion (cheeks wrinkled, not punctured).	
			



← *Apion cruentatum* and *frumentarium* have **punctured cheeks**. There are at least four rows of punctures on the side of the head behind the eyes.

→ The three smaller *Apion* (next page) have **finely wrinkled or smooth cheeks**. There are only two or three rows of punctures on the sides of the head behind the eyes. The rest of the cheeks have fine wrinkles and no punctures or a few very sparse, shallow punctures, not as dense or deep as on the front of the cheek, so the rear cheek appears smoother and more shining.




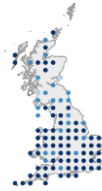
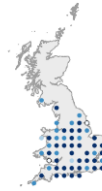
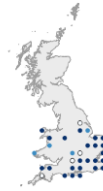


← *Apion cruentatum* is usually red, but in all the *Apion* species colour varies from deep red to pale orange-yellow.

Apion (continued)

Apion = pear

Three smaller species that feed on **Sheep's-sorrel**. **Cheeks wrinkled**, with only two or three rows of punctures behind eye, and large smoother area behind.

<i>Apion haematodes</i>	<i>Apion rubens</i>	<i>Apion rubiginosum</i> *
		
2.1-2.8 mm haematodes = bloody	1.9-2.5 mm rübens = red	2.2-3.3 mm rübiginösüm = rusty
<p>The commonest of the species with punctured cheeks. If you find an <i>Apion</i> on Sheep's-sorrel assume it is this one until you can prove otherwise.</p> <p>On Sheep's-sorrel. Very common.</p> <p>Compare <i>Apion rubens</i> (head wider; wing-cases narrower, sides straighter; female rostrum longer than pronotum). <i>Apion rubiginosum</i> (rostrum longer and straighter, when comparing same sex; female rostrum longer than pronotum, almost straight).</p> 	<p>Head broader and shorter than in the other two species, wider than long (measure width across the eyes, length from front of eye to front of pronotum). Wing-cases with straighter sides, hardly wider in rear half than at front. Rostrum curved, especially in female.</p> <p>On Sheep's-sorrel. Uncommon.</p> <p>Compare <i>Apion haematodes</i> (head longer than wide; female rostrum shorter, not longer than pronotum); wing-cases wider in rear half). <i>Apion rubiginosum</i> (head longer; rostrum straighter, especially in female; wing-cases wider in rear half).</p> 	<p>Rostrum longer and almost straight, notably in female. Male rostrum not so long as female, but still longer than in male <i>haematodes</i> or <i>rubens</i>.</p> <p>On Sheep's-sorrel. Uncommon.</p> <p>Compare <i>Apion haematodes</i> (rostrum shorter when comparing same sex; female rostrum curved). <i>Apion rubens</i> (head wider; rostrum curved, especially in female; wing-cases narrower, sides straighter).</p> 

Key to *Apion*

The species of *Apion* are difficult to name without experience. There is variation in the main characters - rostrum size and shape, and shape of wing-cases - which can be confusing unless you have several reference specimens to show the variation within and between species. Variation and slight overlaps in characters can lead to misidentifications if you rely on only one character.

Measure head width across the eyes. When comparing length of cheeks and heads, beware specimens mounted with heads pulled forward, exposing the smooth, shiny rear of the head that is usually inside the pronotum. If the heads are pulled forward, take the rear of the head to be where the punctures on the top of the head (not the sides) stop.







See also next page for more on separating the three smaller species (*haematodes*, *rubens*, and *rubiginosum*).

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------|
| 1a | Cheeks punctured, at least four rows of punctures on sides of head behind eye. | 2 |
| 1b | Cheeks wrinkled. Only two or three rows of punctures on sides of head behind eye, most of cheeks wrinkled, without punctures, appearing smoother and more shining. | 3 |
| 2a | Head cone-shape, cheek much longer than eye, so eyes appear set further forward. Larger 3.3-4.4 mm. | <i>frumentarium</i> |
| 2b | Head with rather straight sides, cheek about as long as eye. Length 2.7-3.3 mm. | <i>cruentatum</i> |
| 3a | Rostrum clearly longer than pronotum | 4 |
| 3b | Rostrum shorter than pronotum or about as long as pronotum | 5 |
| 4a | Rostrum arched, distinctly curved. Head wider than long. | female <i>rubens</i> |
| 4b | Rostrum almost straight. Head square or longer than wide. | female <i>rubiginosum</i> |
| 5a | Head wider than long. Wing-cases with sides rather straight, hardly widened in rear half. | male <i>rubens</i> |
| 5b | Head square or longer than wide. Wing-cases with sides wider in rear half than at front, slightly pear-shape. | 6 |
| 6a | Rostrum almost straight, about as long as pronotum, longer than head, coarsely punctured to tip | male <i>rubiginosum</i> |
| 6b | Rostrum curved or almost straight, shorter than pronotum, about as long as head, coarsely punctured to tip. | male <i>haematodes</i> |
| 6c | Rostrum curved, about as long as pronotum, longer than head, smoother and more shining in front of antenna bases. | female <i>haematodes</i> |

Apion (continued)

The three smaller *Apion*, those with wrinkled cheeks are confusingly similar. Shape and length of rostrum will identify most of them, especially in combination with the wider head and straighter sides of *rubens*.

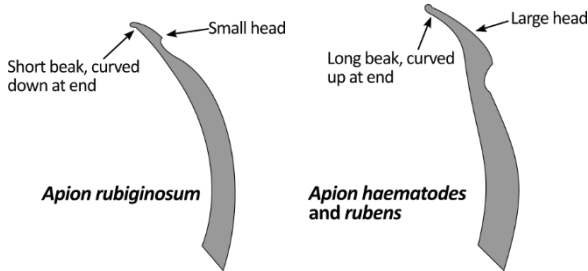
Female *rubens* (rostrum medium and curved) and female *rubiginosum* (rostrum medium and straight) are distinctive. Male *rubens* has a wide head and rather straight-sided wing-cases. The remaining three, male *haematodes*, female *haematodes*, and male *rubiginosum*, are harder to separate, but easier if you know whether you have a male or female. The rostrum of female *haematodes* is not so thick, and is smoother beyond the antenna bases (punctures smaller, sparser, and shallower than in the males). Male *rubiginosum* has a longer and straighter rostrum than male *haematodes*, but the difference is subtle. If in doubt, the aedeagus of *rubiginosum* is distinctive.

	<i>haematodes</i>	<i>rubens</i>	<i>rubiginosum</i>
Males			
Rost. length	Shorter than pronotum (0.80-0.90×). Shorter than or as long as head.	More or less as long as pronotum (1.00-1.05×). Longer than head.	More or less as long as pronotum (0.95-1.05×). Longer than head.
Rost. shape	Rather straight to curved	Curved	Almost straight
Head width	Head longer than wide	Head wider than long	Head longer than wide
Wing-cases	Sides wider in rear half than at front	Sides straighter, hardly wider in rear half than at front	Sides wider in rear half than at front
Females			
Rost. length	Almost as long as pronotum (0.90-1.00×). Longer than head.	Longer than pronotum (1.10-1.30×). Much longer than head.	Longer than pronotum (1.10-1.20×). Much longer than head.
Rost. shape	Curved	Curved	Almost straight
Head width	Head longer than wide	Head wider than long	Head longer than wide, or square
Wing-cases	Sides wider in rear half than at front	Sides straighter, hardly wider in rear half than at front	Sides wider in rear half than at front

Background colours highlight distinctive features.

Aedeaguses

The aedeagus of *rubiginosum* has a shorter head than that of *rubens* and *haematodes*, and the tip is slightly downcurved rather than upcurved.



The two larger species of *Apion* have punctured cheeks (see page 7)
Rule these out before considering the three smaller species.

← *Apion frumentarium* has eyes set further forward, with long cheeks behind, and a cone-shape head, tapering from the rear to the rostrum. This is the most distinctive *Apion*.

→ Head and rostrum shape of *Apion cruentatum* are similar to *haematodes*, but the rostrum is a little longer in each sex. The punctured cheeks will separate *cruentatum* from the three smaller species.






Apionids with patterned wing-cases

On this page and the next. Five easily identifiable species with stripes or bands or black-and- orange wing-cases.

Patterned species: *Ixapion*, *Malvapion*, *Taeniapaion*

Ixapion = mistletoe *Apion*; *Malvapion* = mallow *Apion*; *Taeniapion* = banded *Apion*

Wing-cases orange-brown to dark red-brown, patterned with scales. Legs brown. [Compare](#) Patterned *Exapion* (stripe down each wing-case; antennae on a tooth; pronotum proportionately larger; surface black).

<i>Ixapion variegatum</i> **	<i>Malvapion malvae</i>	<i>Taeniapion urticarium</i>
		
2.1-2.6 mm <i>variegatum</i> = multicoloured	1.8-2.4 mm <i>malvae</i> = of mallow <i>Malvus</i>	1.9-2.3 mm <i>urticarium</i> = of nettles <i>Urtica</i>
<p>Pale patch at front of wing-cases, smaller pale spots at rear. Wing-cases wider at rear.</p> <p>On Mistletoe <i>Viscum album</i>. Discovered in Britain in 2000. Most records are from orchards in the West Midlands, where mistletoe often grows on low fruit trees and is within easy reach. Recently found in Berkshire, and could well be elsewhere, but difficult to find unless mistletoe is growing low down.</p> <p>Compare <i>Malvapion malvae</i> (pale hairs on head and pronotum; pattern different; wing-cases narrower). <i>Taeniapion urticarium</i> (pattern different; wing-cases narrower).</p>	<p>Wing-cases pale orange brown with black front and stripe down centre. Covered in dense pale hairs, often forming patch at front of wing-cases.</p> <p>On mallows and hollyhocks (Malvaceae). Common in the south.</p> <p>Compare Orange wing-cases with black at front and down centre is unique among Apionidae.</p>	<p>Dark red-brown with bands of white scales across wing-cases. Antennae inserted near base of rostrum. Body rather narrow.</p> <p>On nettles <i>Urtica</i>.</p> <p>Compare <i>Ixapion variegatum</i> (pattern different; wing-cases wider).</p>



←*Ixapion variegatum* is a distinctive weevil, but its host plant often grows high up in trees, out of the reach of entomologists.



←*Malvapion malvae* is instantly recognisable by the thick cream hairs, and orange and black wing-cases.



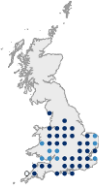



↑*Taeniapion urticarium* on a nettle leaf.

Patterned species: *Exapion*

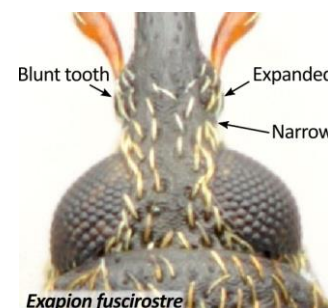
Exapion = from *Apion*

Densely hairy. Antennae inserted near **base of rostrum**, on a **tooth or swelling**. **Compare** No other Apionids have clear stripes down the wing-cases. Typical weevils: *Tychius* (long scape; stripes narrower; antennae inserted near tip of rostrum). Also told from other Apionids by the same features given under Plain *Exapion* (see next page).

<i>Exapion fuscirostre</i>	<i>Exapion genistae</i> ***
	
2.4-3.0 mm F fuscirostre = dark rostrum	2.2-2.5 mm F genistae = of <i>Genista</i>
<p>Pale stripe of scales on sides of pronotum and on each wing-case. Stripe on wing-cases narrowing towards the rear, angled inwards, and fading out before the rear. Femurs pale, with dark bases (half nearest body).</p> <p>On Broom <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>. Common.</p> <p>Compare <i>Exapion genistae</i> (stripes wider, straight, continuing to end of wing-cases; wing-cases wider and lower, sides more rounded; rostrum swollen at antenna bases, rather than with a tooth; pronotum proportionately shorter and wider.) <i>Exapion ulicis</i> (no stripe on wing-cases or pronotum, but scales may be worn; mid and hind legs darker).</p> 	<p>Pale stripe of scales on sides of pronotum, and broad pale stripe down each wing-case. Stripe on wing-cases broad, straight and continuing to end of wing-cases. Femurs dark only at extreme base. The rostrum is widened at the antenna bases, rather than having a pointed tooth.</p> <p>On Petty Whin <i>Genista anglica</i>. Rare. Surviving in very few places.</p> <p>Compare <i>Exapion fuscirostre</i> (stripes angled inwards, tapering at rear, broken at about half-way; wing-cases narrower, sides straighter, higher; femurs usually more extensively dark; rostrum with distinct tooth at antenna bases; pronotum proportionately longer and not so wide.) <i>Exapion ulicis</i> (no stripe on wing-cases or pronotum, but scales may be worn or show faint pattern; mid and hind legs darker).</p> 

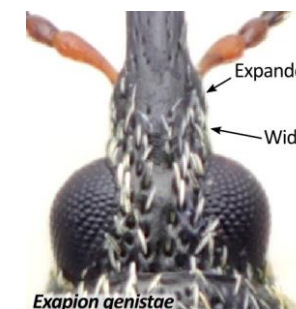


← *Exapion fuscirostre* is common on Broom. The jagged stripes make this an easy species to recognise in the field.



← The rostrum of *Exapion fuscirostre* is expanded at the antenna bases, forming a blunt tooth on either side.

→ In *Exapion genistae*, the expansion continues backwards, so there is a more of a wide base to the rostrum rather than a tooth.





Apionids with yellow-legs and plain wing-cases

Weevils with at least the **front femurs and tibiae yellow or orange-brown**. All these species appear blackish, apart from *Exapion ulicis* (below), which looks greyish from thick hair-scales. Those on **pages 12-14 are obviously hairy**, especially on the underside, whereas **Protapion (pages 15-25) appear almost hairless**. If the front femurs are blackish, see *Squamapion* (page 49).

Plain Exapion

Exapion = from *Apion*

Densely hairy. Antennae inserted near **base of rostrum**, on a **tooth**. Compare *Kalcapion* (pronotums narrower; antennae not on a peg). *Squamapion* (front legs darker and shorter, femurs blackish; antennae not on a tooth; pronotums proportionately smaller). *Pseudapion rufirostre* (wing-cases metallic; hairs fine; antennae inserted further forward, not on a tooth, front legs shorter). *Eutrichapion viciae* (antennae not on a tooth, inserted further forward; wing-cases wider at rear). *Rhopalapion longirostre* (rostrum longer and wider; antennae inserted further forward, not on a tooth; body proportionately narrower). *Protapion* (antennae inserted further forward, not on a tooth; wing-cases strongly domed in side view; hairs very short, may appear hairless and shining).

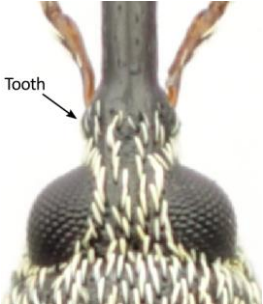
Exapion ulicis		Exapion difficile**	
			
1.9-2.5 mm	ulicis = of gorse Ulex	2 0.-2.3 mm	M
Densely covered in greyish scales, the whole body appearing greyish , sometimes with a yellow or brown tinge. Mid and hind femurs almost completely dark . The scales may wear off or show a hint of stripes, but they do not form the clear stripes of <i>genistae</i> and <i>fuscirostre</i> . Some individuals have finer scales and appear blackish. These could be mistaken for <i>difficile</i> : check the femurs.		Less densely scaled than other <i>Exapion</i> , the black surface clearly showing through the scales, so the body appears blackish . Femurs dark only at extreme base, tibiae pale.	
Male rostrum much shorter than in female.		On Dyer's Greenweed <i>Genista tinctoria</i> . Scarce.	
On gorse <i>Ulex</i> . Very common , to be expected on any patch of gorse.		Compare <i>Exapion fuscirostre</i> (stripes; mid and hind femurs about half pale). <i>Exapion genistae</i> (densely scaled, with stripes; rostrum longer when comparing same sex). <i>Exapion ulicis</i> (scales denser and broader, mid and hind femurs mostly dark; mid and hind tibiae darker; rostrum longer, much longer in female).	
Compare <i>Exapion fuscirostre</i> (stripes; mid and hind femurs about half pale; usually larger. <i>Exapion genistae</i> (stripes; mid and hind femurs almost completely pale). <i>Exapion difficile</i> (scales sparser and finer, body appears black; mid and hind femurs mostly pale; mid and hind tibiae paler; rostrum shorter when comparing same sex).			



←*Exapion ulicis* usually appears greyish from the thick scales. It is small and inconspicuous, but abundant: if you beat any Gorse bush you are likely to find several.



←If the hair scales have worn away, *Exapion ulicis* is more likely to be confused with other species. The female's long rostrum is a good clue, but even males are easily identified by antennae inserted on a tooth near the base of the rostrum, and the dark mid and hind femurs but yellow-brown front femurs.



←In all *Exapion*, the rostrum is widened at the antenna sockets. In *ulicis*, *difficile*, and *fuscirostre*, this forms a blunt tooth at the base of the antennae.

Kalcapion




Legs yellow. Wing-cases narrow oval, hairs rather thick. Antennae inserted in rear half of rostrum. **White patch** of thicker and denser hairs on sides **above mid legs**, and as **stripe between mid and hind legs**. On *Mercurialis*. **Compare** *Protapion* (wing-cases usually wider, sides usually more rounded; hairs much finer, hairs on undersides very short, may appear hairless; antennae inserted further forward; mid and hind tibiae usually dark; rostrums more slender, wider at rear; antennae on a peg). *Squamapion* (legs darker, hind and mid femurs blackish; hairs thicker; first stria continues to front of wing-cases). *Pseudapion rufirostre* (rostrum longer; underside covered with dense white hair-scales; pronotum wider at rear; eye beard). *Eutrichapion viciae* (rostrum more slender; hind tibiae largely black; eye-beard).

Kalcapion = spur Apion

Eutrichapion viciae

Eutrichapion = well hairy Apion

Legs mainly yellow, but hind tibiae mostly black, mid tibiae often dark. **Antennae largely yellow. Underside with dense white hair-scales**, at least above mid legs. **Eye-beard**. Front coxae dark.

<i>Kalcapion pallipes</i>	<i>Kalcapion semivittatum</i> *	<i>Eutrichapion viciae</i>
		
2.0-2.4 mm M pallipes = pale legs	1.8-2.4 mm M semivittatum = half-banded	1.9-2.4 mm viciae = of vetch Vicia
Obvious fine hairs on wing-cases. Feet and tips of tibiae darker than in <i>semivittatum</i> , more contrasting with rest of legs. May have a barer patch in the middle of the wing-cases, but it is not so clear as in <i>semivittatum</i> . Female rostrum longer and thinner than male, smooth and shining beyond antenna bases. On Dog's Mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> . Widespread but local, certainly not on every patch of its foodplant. Compare <i>Kalcapion semivittatum</i> (obvious dark patch in middle of wing-cases; hairs thicker, patches at side of scutellum usually more obvious; feet paler).	Hairs thicker than in <i>pallipes</i> , those in the middle of the wing-cases finer and dark, looking like a clear bare patch . Hairs at side of scutellum usually denser, forming small triangle patches like pair of vampire teeth, but these patches usually not as obvious as they are in <i>Pseudapion rufirostre</i> . Female rostrum longer and thinner than male, smooth and shining beyond antenna bases. On Annual Mercury <i>Mercurialis annua</i> , so in disturbed open ground rather than woods. Uncommon. Compare <i>Kalcapion pallipes</i> (hairs finer; feet darker).	Wing-cases bulging in rear half , more so than in other black species with yellow legs. Shape most similar to some of the <i>Protapion</i> species, but wing-cases not so domed in side view. Antennae all yellow (male) or yellow with darker tip and club (female). On vetches <i>Vicia</i> and <i>Lathyrus</i> . Common. Compare <i>Protapion</i> (wing-cases with very short fine hairs or hairless; hairs on undersides very short, may appear hairless; no eye-beard). <i>Kalcapion</i> (rostrums shorter and thicker; hind tibiae pale; no eye-beard). <i>Exapion</i> (antennae inserted near base of rostrum, on a peg; wing-cases not so wide at rear). <i>Squamapion</i> (legs darker, hind and mid femurs blackish; rostrums thicker). <i>Rhopalapion longirostre</i> (rostrum longer; hind tibiae yellow; antenna club longer and narrower)

→*Kalcapion semivittatum* has thick white hair-scales on the underside. These are denser above the mid legs, and along the side between the mid and hind legs. The white stripe between the mid and hind legs is shared with a few other genera, including some *Squamapion*.



←The thick white hair-scales on the underside immediately separate *Eutrichapion viciae* from the yellow-legged *Protapion*. Note also the eye-beard.

Pseudapion and Rhopalapion

Legs yellow. Thick hairs on underside. Two distinctive species that feed on members of the mallow family Malvaceae.

Pseudapion = false Apion; Rhopalapion = club Apion

Pseudapion rufirostre



2.1-2.8 mm

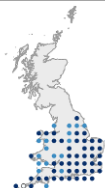
rufirostre = red rostrum

Wing-cases shiny and metallic, with fine hairs. Small triangle patch of dense scales either side of scutellum, these patches more obvious than in most other Apionids.

Male has yellow antennae and yellow front half of rostrum (shared only with male *Protapion nigritarse*). Female has dark rostrum.

On mallows *Malva*. Common.

Compare *Kalcapion* (rostrum shorter; dense hair on underside only as stripe along edge of wing-cases and patch above mid legs; pronotum narrower; no eye beard). *Protapion* (pronotums narrower; hairs on underside very short, may appear hairless; rear tibiae often dark; wing-cases more domed in side-view). *Eutrichapion viciae* (rear tibiae mostly black; wing-cases not metallic; striae wider).



Rhopalapion longirostre



2.4-3.5

longirostre = long rostrum

Rostrum long and thick. Antenna club long and narrow. Underside with patches of thick white hair-scales.

Female easily identified by ridiculously long rostrum. Male rostrum hardly longer than rostrums of females of some other yellow-legged Apionids, but none of these has such a long and narrow antenna club.

On Hollyhock *Alcea rosea*. First found in the wild in 2006, probably imported with plants. Has been spreading across Europe, but still rare in Britain.

Compare *Pseudapion rufirostre* (wing-cases shining and metallic, proportionately wider; antenna club wider and shorter). *Protapion* (antenna clubs wider and shorter; hairs on underside very short, may appear hairless; hairs on wing-cases very short and fine; wing-cases more domed in side view).



← *Pseudapion rufirostre* appears particularly shiny. The half-yellow rostrum of the male is shared only with *Protapion nigritarse*, but even the females are easily recognised by the shiny surface, dense white scales on underside (just visible here), and all-yellow legs.

Protapion with yellow legs

Protapion = first Apion

Legs yellow, but hind tibiae at least often partly black (except in *flavipes* and *nigritarse*). Hairs very short and fine, **wing-cases appear hairless or very shortly hairy** at ×10, underside appears hairless or very finely and sparsely hairy. This is in clear contrast to the obvious hairs of the yellow-legged and black-bodied species on previous pages, which have dense, longer hair-scales on the undersides. No eye-beard. **Front coxae usually yellow-brown**, but blackish or darker in *difforme* and female *fulvipes*. **Compare** *Protapion filirostre* (black legs). *Eutrichapion viciae* (white patches of dense hair-scales on underside; wing-cases not so domed in side view, almost flat at the front; eyes more rounded; eye-beard). *Pseudapion rufirostre* (pronotum wider at rear; white patches of dense hair-scales on underside). *Kalcapion* (wing-cases usually narrower, sides usually straighter, not domed in side view; hairs longer and thicker; white patches of dense hair-scales on underside, above mid legs and along edge of wing-cases; antennae inserted further back; rostrums thicker). *Exapion difficile* (hairs thicker, especially on underside; antennae inserted further back, on a tooth). *Rhopalapion longirostre* (antenna club narrow and long; hairs longer and thicker, underside obviously hairy; body more elongate).

The eleven species of yellow-legged *Protapion* at first glance appear can appear bewilderingly similar. Some useful features that separate the species are shown over the next few pages. Despite the initial similarity, most of the species have distinctive features and are not too difficult to identify. The main problem lies with four common species with all-black hind tibiae: *apricans*, *assimile*, *ononidis*, and *trifolii*. These may prove difficult until you get to know them, or unless you have a good set of reference specimens to compare. Because three of them are very common, it is easy to gather a reference set and start to see the differences.

There is some potentially misleading variation in the species. If you make your identification based on several features you will have less chance of being misled by an anomalous character. This is particularly pertinent with the colour of the legs: you may occasionally find a weevil with the 'wrong' colour trochanters or tibiae. Despite this, the species fall into three convenient groups:

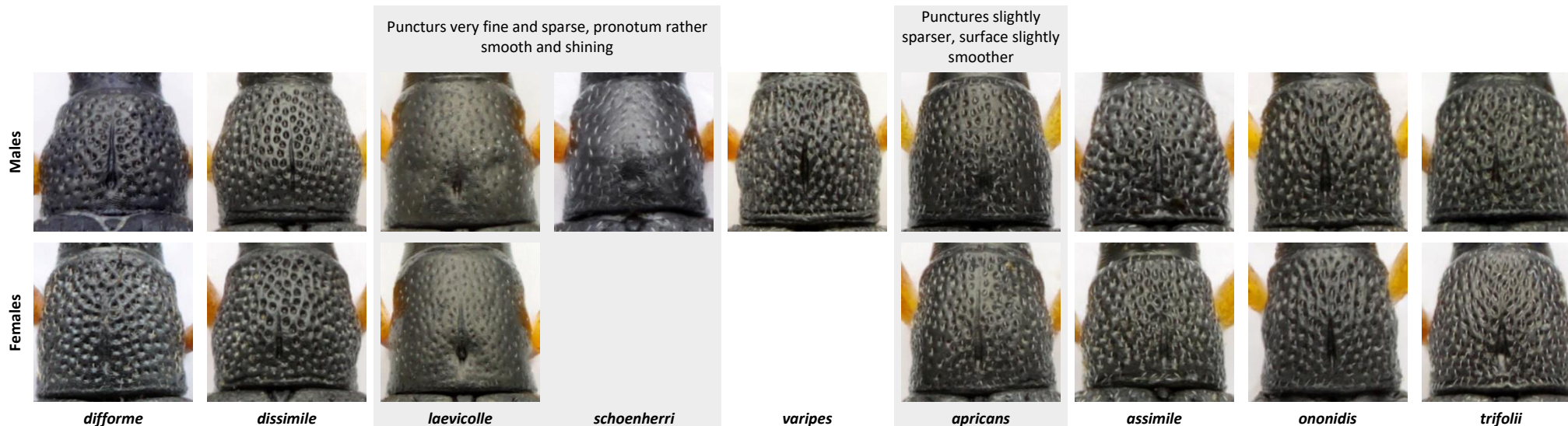
Hind tibiae all-yellow: *fulvipes*, *nigritarse* (page 20)

Hind tibiae half-yellow: *difforme* (male), *dissimile*, *laevicolle*, *varipes*

Hind tibiae all-black: *difforme* (female), *schoenherri*, *apricans*, *assimile*, *ononidis*, *trifolii*

Pronotums

Protapion laevicolle and *schoenherri* have fine, shallow, sparse punctures. Most punctures are separated from their neighbours by at least the width of a puncture. Their pronotums appear much smoother than the other species. *Protapion apricans* has punctures more widely spaced than *assimile*, *ononidis*, and *trifolii*. Some punctures are more than a puncture-width from their neighbours, but others may be closer. The difference is subtle, needs high magnification, and there may be a slight overlap, but the pronotum of *apricans* does not appear as wrinkled or rough as that of the other three species.



Rostrum shape

This is very useful, and one of the best ways to separate some of the species with all-black hind tibiae. See the photos in the species accounts. Side views (if a specimen is available) are shown for each sex of each species: male on the left, female on the right.

Coxa spurs

→ **Male *Protapion ononidis* and *assimile*** have a feeble bristle-like spur on the tip of the front coxae. The spurs are small and pale, so they need high magnification, but they should be visible on a carded specimen is not too much glue has been used.

The spur is missing in females, so this is a useful feature for confirming the identification and sex of these two species.



Antennae

The size and shape of the segments of the antennae are very useful characters. Note especially the length and thickness of the first segment, how dark the segments are, and how much the hairs on the segments are spreading out sideways as opposed to pointing straight forwards.

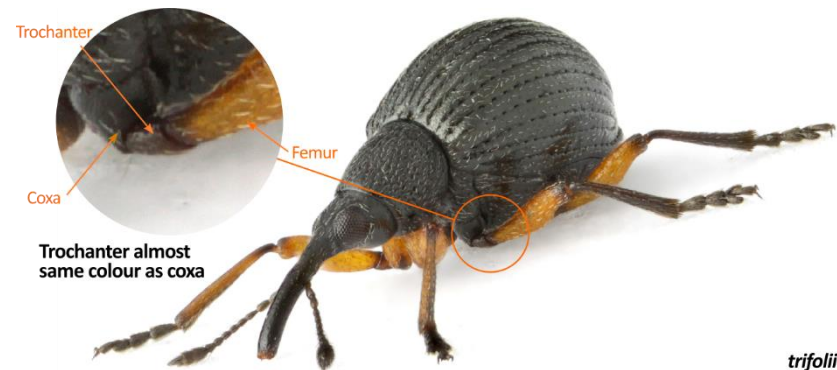
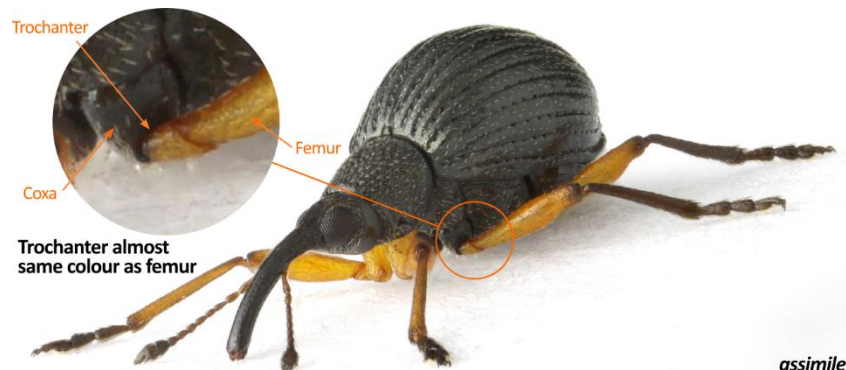


↑The antenna hairs of *ononidis* are longer, darker and more spreading than in other black-shinned *Protapion*. There are also more hairs on each segment, so the filament looks shaggy, unlike any other *Protapion*.

The filament hairs of most *Protapion* are longer and more spreading on the segments nearer the club. When comparing hairs between species, look at the segments in the front half of the filament. Note that the hairs near the tip in *apricans* are like the hairs near the base in *assimile*.

Colour of legs

Trochanters of mid and hind legs



The trochanter is the small segment at the base of the femur. The colour of the trochanters of the mid and hind legs is an important character, but it needs good lighting and high magnification to see it. There are two colour patterns: either the **mid and hind trochanters are yellow-brown**, only slightly darker than the main colour of the femur; or the **mid and hind trochanters are blackish brown**, only slightly lighter than the coxa. **Ignore the trochanters of the front legs:** these are often a different colour. Although the colour of the mid and hind trochanters is an important character, it can sometimes be difficult to judge, and rarely an individual may have the wrong colour. Confirm the identification with other characters.

Hind tibiae



←Hind tibiae all-yellow

The tips may be slightly dusky, but the tibiae are essentially all **yellow-brown**. Only ***fulvipes* and *nigrirtase*** have all-yellow hind tibiae.



←Hind tibiae half-yellow

Outer half is blackish, basal half is yellow. There is a **clear and sharp change of colour** between the two. The area near the joint with the femur may be blackish (as in the *varipes* shown here), but there is still a **clear yellow band** occupying a third or more of the tibia. The species with half-yellow hind tibiae are all **uncommon or rare**.



←Hind tibiae all-black

The **black-shinned *Protapion***. Tibia **entirely blackish or very dark brown**. Sometimes there is a **faint** band of paler red-brown near the base, as in the *trifolii* shown here, but this is not as clearly defined as it is the species with half-yellow tibiae. **Three very common species, *trifolii*, *assimile*, and *apricans***, have all-dark hind tibiae.

There are three colour patterns in the hind tibiae: all-yellow, half-yellow, all-black. This is another very important feature, and one that is easily visible in the field.




Front coxae



The front coxae of most yellow-legged *Protapion* are yellow-brown. The tips may be slightly dusky, especially in *trifolii*, but the main colour is pale to yellow brown, like the femurs. The exceptions are female *fulvipes* (front coxae blackish or black and yellow, or very dark brown), both sexes of *difforme* (front coxae blackish), and some *Protapion trifolii* (front coxae dark brown).

Characters of *Protapion* with all-black or half-yellow hind tibiae (for *Protapion* with all yellow hind tibiae, see page 20).

Features in bold are particularly helpful or unusual. Colours are used to show similar characters in each column.

Species	Sex	Front coxae	Hind tibiae	Mid trochanters	First segment*	Pronotum punctures	Rostrum		Size (mm)	Other features
<i>Protapion apricans</i> page 24	M	Yellow	All dark	Yellow	Medium to long	Some dense, some sparse	Very long, rather straight		2.2-2.7	
	F	Yellow	All dark	Yellow	Medium to very long	Some dense, some sparse	Rather straight to slightly curved		2.2-2.7	
<i>Protapion assimile</i> page 24	M	Yellow, tiny spur	All dark	Yellow	Medium to long	Dense	Slightly curved		1.8-2.3	
	F	Yellow	All dark	Yellow	Medium to long	Dense	Slightly curved		1.8-2.3	
<i>Protapion ononidis</i> page 25	M	Yellow, tiny spur	All dark	Yellow	Very long, slender	Dense	Curved to bent		2.3-2.9	Shaggy hairs on filament.
	F	Yellow	All dark	Yellow	Very long, slender	Dense	Very curved		2.3-2.9	Shaggy hairs on filament.
<i>Protapion trifolii</i> page 25	M	Yellow, or dark brown, tips may be dusky	All dark	Dark	Short to medium, wide	Dense	Rather straight		1.7-2.1	Darker antennae than other black-shinned
	F	Yellow, or dark brown, tips may be dusky	All dark	Dark	Short to medium	Dense	Rather straight		1.7-2.1	Darker antennae than other black-shinned
<i>Protapion schoenherri</i> *** page 22	M	Yellow or dusky	All dark	Dark	Short and wide	Sparse	Thick, short		1.7-2.1	
	F	Yellow or dusky	All dark	Dark	Short and wide	Sparse			1.7-2.1	
<i>Protapion varipes</i> ** page 23	M	Yellow	Half yellow	Yellow	Medium	Dense			2.2-2.6	Front tibiae expanded at tip, curved inwards.
	F	Yellow	Half yellow	Yellow	Medium	Dense	Extremely curved		2.2-2.6	Front tibiae slightly expanded at tip.
<i>Protapion laevicolle</i> ** page 22	M	Yellow	Half yellow	Dark	Short, wide	Sparse	Thick, short to medium		2.4-2.9	Glossy. Rostrum broad.
	F	Yellow	Half yellow	Dark	Short, wide	Sparse	Thick		2.4-2.9	Glossy. Rostrum broad.
<i>Protapion difforme</i> * page 21	M	Black	Half yellow	Dark or yellow	Very long, swollen	Dense or sparse			2.4-3.0	Weird feet and antennae
	F	Black	All dark	Dark	Very long, slender	Dense or sparse	Rather straight to slightly curved		2.4-3.0	Black coxae
<i>Protapion dissimile</i> * page 21	M	Yellow	Half yellow	Yellow	Very long, swollen	Dense or sparse			1.8-2.3	Weird feet and antennae
	F	Yellow	Half yellow	Yellow	Very long, slender	Dense or sparse	Curved to slightly curved		1.8-2.3	

*First segment of the antennae. In this table, a short first segment is shorter than the width of the rostrum. A medium first segment is about as long as the width of the rostrum. A long first segment is about 1.2-1.4x as long as the width of the rostrum. A very long segment is more than 1.5x as long as the width of the rostrum. The width of the rostrum is measured across between the antenna bases. Those species with very long first segments usually have narrower, more slender first segments than the other species. See the illustrations on page 16.

Hind tibiae half-yellow

*Protapion difforme** Male



Thumb on front feet. Filament wide at base. Square segments in hind feet.

*Protapion dissimile** Male



Oblong segments in hind feet. First segment of antennae swollen. On Hare's-foot Clover.

*Protapion dissimile** Female



Like *varipes*, but first antenna segment very long, wing-cases shorter. On Hare's-foot Clover.

*Protapion laevicolle***



Large. Surface glossy. Rostrum broad. Pronotum finely punctured, appears rather smooth.

*Protapion varipes***



Like female *dissimile* but first antenna segment shorter, wing-cases longer. Female rostrum very curved. Front tibiae slightly widened at the tip.

Hind tibiae all-black

*Protapion difforme** Female



Font coxae black.

*Protapion schoenherri****



Small. Pronotum finely punctured, appears rather smooth. Antenna segments thick. Rostrum short.

Protapion apricans Male



Rostrum hardly tapered in front of antenna bases, wider than female *assimile*.

Protapion apricans Female



Rostrum very long, rather straight. First antenna segment very long.

Protapion assimile Male



Rostrum tapered in front of antenna bases. Pronotum rougher than *apricans*. Usually smaller than *apricans*.

Hind tibiae all-black

Protapion assimile Female



Rostrum long, slightly curved. Pronotum rougher than *apricans*. Usually smaller than *apricans*.

Protapion ononidis Male



Shaggy antennae. Rostrum broad at base, tapered in front of antenna bases. On rest-harrows.

Protapion ononidis Female



Shaggy antennae. Rostrum strongly curved. First antenna segment very long and slender. On rest-harrows.

Protapion trifolii Male



Small. Antennae dark, inserted further back, first antenna segment shorter and thicker. Mind and hind torchanters dark. Rostrum rather straight.

Protapion trifolii Female





Small. Antennae dark, inserted further back, first antenna segment shorter and thicker. Mind and hind torchanters dark. Rostrum rather straight.

Protapion with yellow legs continued

Protapion = first *Apion*

Two common species with rear tibiae all-yellow apart from a sometimes a faint dusky smear near the tip. [Compare](#) Other *Protapion* (rear tibiae all-black, or at least half-black).

<i>Protapion fulvipes</i>	<i>Protapion nigritarse</i>
	
1.8-2.2 mm fulvipes = yellow legs	1.6-1.9 mm nigritarse = black foot
Front half of antennae dusky. Male front coxae yellow. Rostrum shorter than in female. Female front coxae dark: black or black and yellow or very dark brown. On White Clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and Alsike Clover <i>Trifolium hybridum</i> . Very common. Compare <i>Protapion nigritarse</i> (antennae yellow up to club; club more compact; male rostrum half yellow)	Antenna filament yellow , contrasting with the blackish club, which is more compact than in <i>fulvipes</i> . Front coxae yellow in both sexes. Male front half of rostrum yellow. Rostrum shorter than in female. Female rostrum longer than in male. On yellow-flowered trefoils <i>Trifolium</i> . Common. Compare <i>Protapion fulvipes</i> (antennae dusky in front half; club longer, more tapered; male rostrum all-black). <i>Pseudapion rufirostre</i> (underside with dense white hairs; wing-cases obviously hairy; pronotum wider).





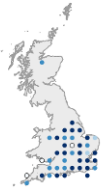
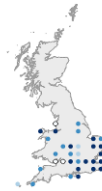
→The filament of *Protapion nigritarse* is all yellow, contrasting sharply with the small blackish club.



Protapion with yellow legs continued

Protapion = first Apion

Two species with strange males: antennae and feet of males have some swollen or deformed segments. Females are normal, but note that *difforme* has dark front coxae, and *dissimile* has half-yellow rear tibiae.

<i>Protapion difforme</i> *	<i>Protapion dissimile</i> *
	
2.4-3.0 mm difforme = deformed	1.8-2.3 mm dissimile = different
<p>Front coxae black or very dark brown, much darker than the front femurs.</p> <p>Male antennae wide at base, segments swollen. Front feet with huge thumb-like projection on first segment. Rear feet with square first segment. Rear tibiae half yellow, half black.</p> <p>Female normal. Rear tibiae all-black. Scape long.</p> <p>On clovers <i>Trifolium</i>. Associated with Hare's-foot Clover <i>Trifolium arvense</i> in some places, but not in others. Uncommon.</p> <p>Compare female with <i>Protapion ononidis</i> (front coxae yellow-brown; antenna hairs spreading and shaggy; rostrum slightly narrowed after antenna sockets). All other yellow-legged <i>Protapion</i> (front coxae yellow-brown; scapes often shorter).</p> 	<p>Rear tibiae half yellow, half black.</p> <p>Male first antenna segment swollen, rear feet blocky, first two segments wide and rectangular. Front feet slightly deformed, but never with the huge thumb of male <i>dissimile</i>.</p> <p>Female normal.</p> <p>On Hare's-foot Clover <i>Trifolium arvense</i>. Uncommon.</p> <p>Compare female with <i>Protapion varipes</i> (wing-cases longer, more tapered; first antenna segment shorter, rostrum more curved in female; front tibiae slightly expanded and slightly curved inwards at tip). <i>Protapion laevicolle</i> (rostrum broader; surface glossy; pronotum punctures fine and sparse; first segment of antennae shorter; usually smaller).</p> 



↑ The black front coxae of female *difforme* separate it from all similar *Protapion*. Female *fulvipes* can have black front coxae, but is otherwise very different.







← Male *Protapion dissimile* is easily recognised by the oblong rear feet, club-shape first antenna segment. *Protapion difforme* also has strange feet and antennae, but the antennae are wider, and the front feet have a large thumb-like spur.

→ Female *dissimile* is not so distinctive, but note the half-yellow hind tibiae, and the very long first antenna segment.

Protapion with yellow legs continued

Protapion = first Apion

Two rare species with rather smooth-looking pronotums, the punctures shallow, and rather broad rostrums, at least in males.

<i>Protapion laevicolle</i> **	<i>Protapion schoenherri</i> ***
	
<p>2.4-2.9 mm</p> <p>laevicolle = smooth neck</p> <p>Surface smoother and glossier than in other <i>Protapion</i>, and rostrum thicker, especially in front of antenna bases. Punctures shallow. Striae narrow and weak. Rear tibiae half black, mid-trochanters dark. Thick rostrum and glossy, smooth surface are obvious even in the field.</p> <p>Female has slightly longer rostrum than male, hardly swollen around the antenna bases, but differences not so marked as in other <i>Protapion</i>. The differences from other species are shared by both sexes.</p> <p>Larvae in galls on White Clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>, but adults not always associated with that plant. Scattered in the far south, usually near the coast. Rare.</p> <p>Compare Other <i>Protapion</i> (rostrums thinner, especially after antenna bases; surfaces less glossy, hairs thicker, usually apparent at $\times 20$; striae wider and deeper; pronotums more deeply punctured [apart from <i>schoenherri</i>]).</p> 	<p>1.7-2.1 mm</p> <p>M</p> <p>schoenherri, after Carl Schönher, Swedish entomologist</p> <p>Punctures shallow, so pronotum appears smoother than in all other <i>Protapion</i> apart from <i>laevicolle</i>. Mid and hind trochanters dark.</p> <p>Male rostrum broad and short, antennae thick, segments short.</p> <p>Female ??.</p> <p>Probably on clovers <i>Trifolium</i>. Very rare.</p> <p>Compare <i>Protapion laevicolle</i> (larger; rostrum broader at tip; hind tibiae half yellow; striae finer, surface more glossy). <i>Protapion difforme</i> female (front coxae blackish; larger; first segment of antennae very long). <i>Protapion trifolii</i> (pronotum closely and coarsely punctured; rostrum more slender and ??longer). Other black-shinned <i>Protapion</i> (pronotums more closely and coarsely punctured; mid trochanters pale; antennae more slender; ??rostrums longer and narrower; pronotums with sharper and longer grooves down middle of rear half - see page 15).</p> 



←The broad rostrum and smooth pronotum of *Protapion laevicolle* are good field characters. This is one of the easier species to identify, but it also rare, so check your identification carefully.

Protapion with yellow legs continued

A rare species with rear tibiae half yellow.

Protapion = first Apion

Protapion varipes**



2.2-2.6 mm

F

varipēs = different-coloured foot

Hind tibiae half yellow, half black. Mid and hind trochanters yellow. Front tibiae very slightly wider and rounded at tip, inner edge turned slightly inwards.

Male rostrum rather thick, widened at antenna bases.

Female rostrum strongly arched.

On Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, and perhaps other clovers too. Uncommon.



Compare *Protapion trifolii* (rostrum straighter; mid and hind trochanters dark; smaller; hind tibiae usually all dark; front coxae with dusky tips). *Protapion apricans* (hind tibiae black; rostrum straighter, male rostrum not so widened at antenna bases). *Protapion ononidis* (hind tibiae black; antenna hairs longer, strongly spreading; male rostrum wider; first antenna segment longer; pronotum usually narrower). *Protapion assimile* (smaller; hind tibiae black; rostrum not so strongly arched, shorter when comparing same sex). *Protapion dissimile* female (wing-cases shorter, blunter; first antenna segment longer; front tibiae not expanded at tip).



Subspecies of Protapion assimile (see next page)



subsp. *assimile*
male



subsp. *ryei*
male

Protapion assimile is a common species in much of Britain. In the Outer Hebrides, Orkney, and Shetland, it has a broader head and rostrum, and the pronotum is slightly wider. This form was described as a new species *Apion ryei* in 1874. It is now considered a subspecies of *assimile*. The wider rostrum and pronotum are subtly different in the two specimens shown here, but this may just be part of the general variation within *assimile*. Whatever its status, *ryei* has not been found anywhere else in the world, and it is included as an endemic British species in some lists.





← The four species on the following pages are all rather similar. *Protapion ononidis* is perhaps the most distinctive. It has a strongly curved rostrum, a very long first antennal segment, and the hairs on the filament are long and shaggy. The male, shown here, has a rostrum that is particularly broad at the base and then strongly tapered after the antenna bases. The other three species feed on clovers, but *ononidis* is on rest-harrows.

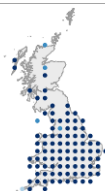
Protapion with yellow legs continued

Protapion = first Apion

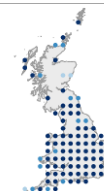
This and the next page have four **common** species with **rear tibiae completely black**: the **black-shinned Protapion**. In some individuals the basal half of the rear tibiae may be gradually paler or have a paler area, but the pale areas are still usually rather dusky, and there is a not sharp contrast between the black half and the yellow half like there is in *varipes*, *laevicolle*, *difforme*, and *dissimile*. The species with half-yellow rear tibiae are uncommon, so check other features before claiming one of the rare species, and consider that you might have a slightly paler-legged individual of one of the common black-shinned species. [Compare](#) *Protapion schoenherri* (pronotum punctures sparse and fine, pronotum appears rather smooth; rostrum thick, rather short; mid trochanters dark [but *trifolii* also has dark mid trochanters]). *Protapion difforme* female (front coxae blackish).



Protapion apricans	Protapion assimile
	
<p>2.2-2.7 mm</p> <p>Usually slightly larger than <i>assimile</i> and <i>trifolii</i>, but this is only apparent in direct comparison. Rostrum straighter, bent downwards, but not really arched. Punctures on pronotum usually more widely spaced, especially at the sides the space between the punctures flatter, but some have closer punctures very like those of <i>assimile</i>. Long hairs on antenna segments pointing forwards, mostly pressed close to the segment, but a few may be slightly spreading outwards, especially near the tip.</p> <p>Male has no spur on front coxae. Rostrum not as strongly pinched in in front of antennae, appears hardly tapered in front.</p> <p>Female has straighter and longer rostrum than female <i>assimile</i> and <i>ononidis</i>.</p> <p>On Red Clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>. Very common.</p> <p>Compare males <i>Protapion assimile</i> (rostrum more tapered in front; usually smaller; punctures coarser and closer together; tiny spur on front coxae). <i>Protapion ononidis</i> (rostrum more arched, wider at base, strongly tapered at front; antennae longer, especially first segment; long hairs on antennae strongly spreading out, scruffy; tiny spur on front coxae). <i>Protapion trifolii</i> (smaller; antennae shorter and darker, especially at base, inserted further back; mid trochanters dusky or black; front coxae often dusky at tips).</p> <p>Compare females <i>Protapion assimile</i> (rostrum more arched, shorter; usually smaller; punctures coarser and closer together). <i>Protapion ononidis</i> (rostrum more arched; long hairs on antennae strongly spreading out, scruffy; punctures coarser and closer together). <i>Protapion trifolii</i> (smaller; antennae shorter and darker, especially at base, inserted further back; mid trochanters dusky or black; front coxae often dusky at tips).</p>	<p>2.0-2.3 mm</p> <p>This is the other very common <i>Protapion</i> with black rear tibiae and pale mid trochanters. Rostrum downcurved, more arched than in <i>apricans</i>, especially in female. Long hairs on antenna segments slightly longer and looser than in <i>apricans</i>, pointing forwards, but mostly spreading slightly outwards. Steeper rear end (almost vertical) than <i>apricans</i> and <i>ononidis</i>.</p> <p>Male has a small spur at the tip of the front coxa. Rostrum more tapered after antennae, narrower at the tip than in <i>apricans</i>.</p> <p>Female has slightly arched rostrum, shorter than that of <i>apricans</i>, but more downcurved.</p> <p>On clovers <i>Trifolium</i>. Very common. Subsp. <i>ryei</i> (see previous page) is found in Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides.</p> <p>Compare males <i>Protapion apricans</i> (rostrum hardly tapered in front; usually larger; punctures more widely spaced; no spur on front coxae). <i>Protapion ononidis</i> (rostrum wider at base; antennae longer, especially first segment; usually larger; long hairs on antennae strongly spreading out, scruffy). <i>Protapion trifolii</i> (antennae shorter and darker, especially at base, inserted further back; mid trochanters dusky or black; front coxae often dusky at tips, no spur).</p> <p>Compare females <i>Protapion apricans</i> (rostrum straighter, longer; usually larger; punctures more widely spaced). <i>Protapion ononidis</i> (long hairs on antennae strongly spreading out, scruffy; usually larger; first antenna segment longer). <i>Protapion trifolii</i> (antennae shorter and darker, especially at base, inserted further back; mid trochanters dusky or black; front coxae often dusky at tips; rostrum very slightly more arched).</p>

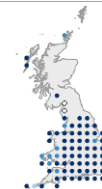
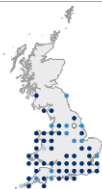
apricans = sunbather



assimilis = similar



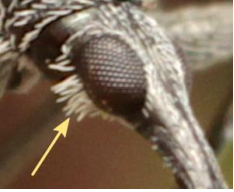


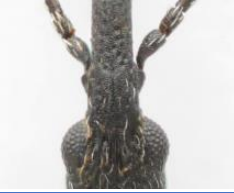
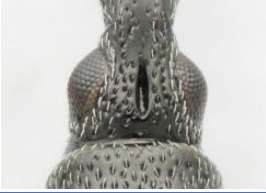





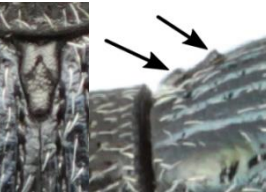
<i>Protapion ononidis</i>	<i>Protapion trifolii</i>
	
<p>2.3-2.9 mm MFF ὄνῶνις = from rest-harrow <i>Ononis</i></p>	<p>1.7-2.3 mm trifolii = of clovers <i>Trifolium</i></p>
<p>Long hairs of antenna segments point outwards, strongly spreading, appearing bristly and unkempt. Long first segment of antennae, but some are hardly distinguishable from <i>apricans</i> in this feature.</p> <p>Male has a small spur at the tip of the front coxa. Rostrum wider at base than other black-tibiae species, strongly narrowed after antenna bases like <i>assimile</i>, but appears more tapering because of wider base. Antennae long.</p> <p>Female has arched rostrum, only slightly narrower after antenna bases, shorter than that of <i>apricans</i>, more downcurved, slightly more arched than <i>assimile</i>.</p> <p>On rest-harrows <i>Ononis</i>. Frequent, but more common near the coast.</p>	<p>Mid trochanters dark. Antennae thicker, first segment shorter than in <i>apricans</i> and <i>assimile</i>, much shorter than in <i>ononidis</i>, and filament mostly blackish, darker than in the other three, especially at base.</p> <p>Male has no spur on front coxae. Rostrum not as strongly pinched in in front of antennae, appears hardly tapered in front, like <i>apricans</i> but antennae inserted slightly further back.</p> <p>Female rostrum straighter than <i>assimile</i> and <i>ononidis</i>, like <i>apricans</i>, but shorter, and antennae inserted slightly further back.</p> <p>On clovers, mostly Red Clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i> and Zigzag Clover <i>Trifolium medium</i>. Common.</p>
<p>Compare males <i>Protapion apricans</i> (rostrum straighter, hardly tapered in front; punctures more widely spaced; no spur on front coxae). <i>Protapion assimile</i> (rostrum narrower at base; antennae shorter, especially first segment; usually smaller; long hairs on antennae pointing more forwards, not so spreading out). <i>Protapion trifolii</i> (usually smaller; rostrum narrower at base; first antenna segment shorter; rostrum not so tapered; antennae shorter, darker, especially at base, inserted further back; mid trochanters dusky or black; front coxae often dusky at tips).</p> <p>Compare females <i>Protapion apricans</i> (rostrum straighter, longer; punctures more widely spaced; long hairs on antennae pointing more forwards, not so spreading out). <i>Protapion assimile</i> (usually smaller; long hairs on antennae pointing more forwards, not so spreading out; first antenna segment shorter). <i>Protapion trifolii</i> (usually smaller; first antenna segment shorter; rostrum straighter; antennae shorter, darker, especially at base, inserted further back; mid trochanters dusky or black; front coxae often dusky at tips). <i>Protapion difforme</i> (front coxae blackish; hairs on antennae shorter and not strongly spreading; rostrum not narrowed after antenna bases).</p>	<p>Compare males <i>Protapion apricans</i> (larger; antennae longer and paler, especially at base, inserted further forward; mid trochanters pale). <i>Protapion assimile</i> (antennae longer and paler, especially at base, inserted further forward; mid trochanters pale; front coxae with tiny spur at tip). <i>Protapion ononidis</i> (usually larger; rostrum wider at base; first antenna segment much longer; rostrum tapered, especially after antenna bases; antennae longer, paler, especially at base, inserted further forward; long hairs on antennae strongly spreading out, scruffy; mid trochanters pale; front with tiny spur at tip).</p> <p>Compare females <i>Protapion apricans</i> (larger; antennae longer and paler, especially at base, inserted further forward, first segment longer; mid trochanters pale). <i>Protapion assimile</i> (antennae longer and paler, especially at base, inserted further forward; mid trochanters pale; rostrum very slightly straighter). <i>Protapion ononidis</i> (usually larger; first antenna segment longer; rostrum more arched; antennae longer, paler, especially at base, inserted further forward; long hairs on antennae strongly spreading out, scruffy; mid trochanters pale).</p>



Apionids with black or metallic legs

The remaining 58 species all have blackish or metallic legs (although the very rare *Acentrotypus brunnipes* can have brown legs, and narrow *Squamapion* can have brown front tibiae).

Some unusual and distinctive features

	Eye-beard: <i>Betulapion simile</i> , <i>Eutrichapion ervi</i> , <i>Eutrichapion vorax</i> .		V or U shape groove on forehead: <i>Diplapion stolidum</i> <i>Diplapion confluens</i> .		Forehead with a depression between the eyes: <i>Cyanapion spencei</i> , <i>Catapion pubescens</i> , <i>Acentrotypus brunnipes</i> .
	Antennae on a tooth or peg: <i>Ceratapion carduorum</i> <i>Ceratapion gibbirostre</i> .		Single deep groove on forehead: <i>Aspidapion aeneum</i> (deep and well-defined) (<i>Aizobius sedi</i> sometimes has shallow groove, but it is not so obvious and not well-defined).		Metallic purple or gold-red all over (including head and pronotum): <i>Pseudaplemonus limonii</i> .
	Claws without a tooth at the base (see below): <i>Omphalapion</i> , <i>Ceratapion</i> , <i>Perapion</i> , <i>Pseudoperapion</i> , <i>Pseudaplemonus</i> . (<i>Aizobius sedi</i> may or may not have a tooth.)		Hairy scutellum: <i>Eutrichapion vorax</i> .		Antennae (including club) all-yellow: <i>Eutrichapion ervi</i> , <i>Oxystoma cracca</i>
	Hairs on rostrum erect, bristly: <i>Holotrichapion ononis</i> .		Scutellum raised at tip, and with swollen bosses at base: <i>Aspidapion radiolus</i> <i>Aspidapion soror</i>		

Claws with a tooth at base				<i>Aizobius</i>	Claws with no tooth			





Most black-legged Apionids have a tooth or sharply-pointed lobe at the base of the claws. *Perapion*, *Ceratapion*, *Omphalapion*, *Pseudoperapion*, and *Pseudaplemonus* have smooth claws with no tooth at the base. The base may be thicker, but there is no sharp lobe or tooth. *Aizobius sedi* is intermediate: it has a slight lobe at the base, and this can be pointed or blunt, so appearing as a tooth or just a bulge. *Aizobius* is included in toothed and untoothed options in the key, but other species should obviously have toothed claws or obviously have no tooth. Sometimes the tooth is small, so check from all angles and use high magnification.





Quick guide to Apionids with black or metallic legs

The tables contain information on two characters (hairiness and colour); the foodplant; and a short summary of the main characters. This summarises the things that I notice and think about when identifying the species. You can get a long way just by matching size, shape, and colour. Pay particular attention to the size and shape of the eyes, the thickness and curvature of the rostrum, whether the rostrum is straight-sided or tapering, how far along the rostrum the antennae are inserted, the thickness of the antennae, and the shape of the wing-cases and how hairy they are.





The table does not include the very rare *Acentrotypus brunnipes* or *Perapion lemoroi*. **Always check your identification against the main species accounts:** these will alert you to similar species you might not have considered.





Where two specimens are shown, the male is on the left, the female is on the right.

<i>Oxystoma</i> (page 35). Rostrum fat at base, pinched in front. Eyes large, bulging. Other species with a pinched-in rostrum do not have such large eyes, and their rostrums are not so fat at the base nor so markedly pinched in. Claws with a tooth at base.			
<i>Oxystoma cerdo</i>	<i>Oxystoma cracca</i>	<i>Oxystoma subulatum</i>	<i>Oxystoma pomonae</i>
			
Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Shortly hairy to obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.
Black or blue-black.	Black or blue-black.	Black or blue-black.	Metallic blue.
Vetches <i>Vicia</i> .	Vetches <i>Vicia</i> .	Meadow Vetchling <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> .	Vetches <i>Vicia</i> and vetchlings <i>Lathyrus</i> .
Rostrum arched.	Rostrum angular, wedge-shape. Antennae paler, yellow club in male.	Rostrum longer, slender in female.	The only blue <i>Oxystoma</i> .





<i>Omphalapion</i> (page 37). Pronotum swollen and inflated, rounded at sides and across the top. Antennae in rear third of rostrum. Claws without a tooth			<i>Aizobius</i> (page 38). Rostrum thick, short to medium.
<i>Omphalapion hookerorum</i>	<i>Omphalapion beuthini</i> ***	<i>Omphalapion laevigatum</i> ***	<i>Aizobius sedi</i> *
		 Lech Borowiec	
Shortly hairy.	Shortly hairy.	Shortly hairy.	Shortly hairy.
Black (male) or metallic blue or green (female).	Black (male) or metallic blue or green (female).	Black (male) or metallic blue or green (female).	Black
Mayweeds <i>Tripleurospermum</i> and <i>Matricaria</i>	Mayweeds <i>Anthemis</i> and <i>Matricaria</i>	Mayweeds <i>Anthemis</i> and <i>Matricaria</i>	Stonecrops <i>Sedum</i> .
Pronotum swollen. Rostrum tapering, antennae inserted in rear third. Prominent shoulders.	Like <i>hookerorum</i> , but rostrum longer (compare same sex) and eyes less rounded.	Very rare. Like <i>hookerorum</i> , but with deep groove at base of pronotum. Female rostrum very long.	Appears hairless and black. Pronotum with rather rounded sides. Rostrum thick. Legs not as long as many other black Apionids. On stonecrops.





Quick guide to Apionids with black or metallic legs (continued)

Colourful <i>Perapion</i> (page 39). Rostrum short to medium, thick, almost straight to weakly curved. Claws without a tooth.			
<i>Perapion violaceum</i>	<i>Perapion hydrolapathi</i>	<i>Perapion marchicum</i>	<i>Perapion affine**</i>
			
Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.
Metallic green, blue, or purple.	Metallic green, blue, or purple.	Metallic green, blue, or purple.	Metallic green, blue, or purple.
Docks and sorrels <i>Rumex</i> .	Docks <i>Rumex</i> .	Sheep's-sorrel <i>Rumex acetosella</i> .	Common Sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i> .
Like <i>hydrolapathi</i> , but rostrum longer and more curved. Narrower than <i>marchicum</i> .	Long, rear: wing-cases long, but rostrum short and thick. Scutellum long. Pronotum more or less square. Wing-cases colourful.	Rostrum thick. Pronotum more or less square or slightly wider. Strong shoulders. Wing-cases colourful. On Sheep's-sorrel. Cheeks and chin wrinkled, few punctures.	Very like <i>marchicum</i> , but rare and on Common Sorrel. Cheeks and chin punctured.





Blackish <i>Perapion</i> and <i>Pseudoperapion</i> (page 42). Rostrum thick, rather short. Claws without a tooth.		<i>Helianthemapion</i> (page 43). Very narrow. Rostrum thick.	<i>Pseudaplemonus</i> (page 44). Colourful all over.
<i>Perapion curtirostre</i>	<i>Pseudoperapion brevirostre***</i>	<i>Helianthemapion aciculare***</i>	<i>Pseudaplemonus limonii**</i>
			
Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.
Black or blue-black	Black or blue-black or bronze.	Black.	Metallic purple, copper, or red
Docks and sorrels <i>Rumex</i> .	St John's-worts <i>Hypericum</i> .	Rock-roses <i>Helianthemum</i> .	Sea-lavenders <i>Limonium</i> .
Typical <i>Perapion</i> rostrum, short and thick , but wing-cases hairy and not colourful. Pronotum long or square.	Thickly hairy. Slight metallic sheen on wing-cases. Pronotum wide. Rostrum short to medium, antennae near the base. Female rostrum half hairy, half shiny ; male rostrum short and thick, hairless band at tip.	Ridiculously slender. Narrow pronotum. Shoulders not prominent, hardly wider than wing-cases. Rostrum short and thick. Claws toothed.	Large and purple, colourful all over. In salt-marshes. Rostrum thick.




Quick guide to Apionids with black or metallic legs (continued)

Ceratapion (page 45). Antennae thick, inserted near the base of the rostrum. Rostrum swollen or with a tooth at the base of the antennae. Claws without a tooth.			Aspidapion aeneum (page 46). Deep groove between eyes. Very smooth and shiny , wing-cases very colourful .
Ceratapion gibbirostre	Ceratapion carduorum	Ceratapion onopordi	Aspidapion aeneum
			
Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.
Metallic blue or green.	Metallic blue or green.	Metallic blue or green.	Metallic blue or green.
Thistles <i>Carduus</i> and <i>Cirsium</i> .	Thistles <i>Carduus</i> and <i>Cirsium</i> .	Thistles and knapweeds.	Mallows (Malvaceae).
Rostrum long, sides with tooth at antenna base. Antennae inserted near base of rostrum.	Very like <i>gibbirostre</i> .	Pronotum long and coarsely punctured, sides rather straight. Rostrum slightly wider at antenna bases.	The shiniest Apionid? Deep cut on forehead.





Other Aspidapion (page 47). Metallic blue or green. Arched rostrum. Narrow, oval body, wing-cases. Scutellum long, with bump at base and at tip. Antennae behind half way. On mallows . Rostrum strongly arched or bent. Claws with a tooth.		Diplapion (page 48). Antennae inserted near the base of the rostrum, thick but long. V or U shape groove between the eyes. Claws without a tooth	
Aspidapion radiolus	Aspidapion soror***	Diplapion stolidum*	Diplapion confluens
			
Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.
Metallic blue or green.	Metallic blue or green.	Black.	Black.
Mallows (Malvaceae).	Marsh Mallow <i>Althaea officinalis</i> .	Ox-eye Daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> .	Mayweeds <i>Matricaria</i> , <i>Anthemis</i> , and <i>Tripleurospermum</i>
Long scutellum, raised at base and tip . On various mallows and hollyhocks. Rostrum strongly arched or bent .	Like <i>radiolus</i> , but only on Marsh Mallow. Broader rostrum.	Deep V groove between eyes. Antennae thick and long, inserted at base of rostrum	Like <i>stolidum</i> .





Quick guide to Apionids with black or metallic legs (continued)

<i>Squamapion</i> (page 49). Antennae inserted near base of rostrum, at about $\frac{1}{4}$. Claws with a tooth.			
<i>Squamapion cineraceum</i> *	<i>Squamapion flavimanum</i> *	<i>Squamapion atomarium</i> *	<i>Squamapion vicinum</i> *
			
Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy	Obviously hairy.
Black	Black	Black	Black
Self-heal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> .	Wild Basil <i>Clinopodium vulgare</i> .	Thyme <i>Thymus</i> .	Mint <i>Mentha</i> .
Body oval , hairs on intervals often in matted stripes. Eyes rounded, bulging in male. White stripe on side above mid legs. Female rostrum smooth and shining. Front tibiae often dark brown .	Like <i>cineraceum</i> , but rostrum duller and rougher, short in male. Legs weaker and usually paler, front tibiae brown .	Tiny, pronotum wide . Thickly hairy. Antennae at base of rostrum. Shoulders not prominent.	Square shoulders. Hairy. Pronotum wide , bell-shape. Antennae at base of rostrum.





<i>Catapion</i> (page 52). Hairy. Antennae $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ way along rostrum. Pronotums rather short and wide. Wing-cases widest at or in front of middle . Claws with a tooth.		
<i>Catapion pubescens</i>	<i>Catapion seniculus</i>	<i>Catapion curtisii</i> ***
		
Thickly hairy	Thickly hairy	Thickly hairy
Black.	Black.	Black.
Yellow-flowered trefoils <i>Trifolium</i> .	Clovers <i>Trifolium</i> .	Clovers <i>Trifolium</i> .
Wide pronotum . Hairs thick. Head caved in .	Hairs thick. Wing-cases widest in front of middle, shoulders square . Rostrum medium to long, antennae at about $\frac{1}{4}$ to less than $\frac{1}{2}$.	Like <i>seniculus</i> , but less hairy, rostrum shorter when comparing same sex.





Quick guide to Apionids with black or metallic legs (continued)

<i>Stenopterapion</i> (page 54). Wing-cases long and narrow , widest behind the middle. Claws with a tooth.			
<i>Stenopterapion meliloti</i>	<i>Stenopterapion scutellare*</i>	<i>Stenopterapion tenue</i>	<i>Stenopterapion intermedium***</i>
			
Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy
Metallic blue.	Black or metallic blue.	Black	Black
Melilots <i>Melilotus</i> .	Gorse <i>Ulex</i> .	Medicks <i>Medicago</i> .	Sainfoin <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i> .
Narrow, shining blue. Rostrum long, antennae around half way.	Long and narrow, but wider than other <i>Stenopterapion</i> . Dull blue and obviously hairy. On gorse .	Tiny, flat-backed, and narrow. Long abdomen.	Like a hairy <i>tenue</i> ; very rare.





Blackish <i>Ischnopterapion</i> (page 56). Commonest black-legged species. Almost identical, so treated together here.		<i>Pirapion</i> and <i>Protopirapion</i> (page 57). Inflated abdomens, shoulders weak. Claws with a tooth.	
<i>Ischnopterapion loti</i>	<i>Ischnopterapion modestum</i>	<i>Pirapion immune</i>	<i>Protopirapion atratum</i>
			
Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.
Black or blue-black.	Black or blue-black.	Black or blue-black.	Black or blue-black.
Bird's-foot-trefoils <i>Lotus</i> .	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i> .	Broom <i>Cytisus</i> .	Gorse <i>Ulex</i> and Broom <i>Cytisus</i> .
Very common. Wing-cases dull lead-blue or blackish , hairy. Shoulders prominent. Obviously hairy. Rostrum longer than head and pronotum combined, not particularly narrow or wide, antennae near the middle. Eyes not particularly long. Pronotum black, slightly wider than long, with a pit or short groove down the middle of the rear. Claws with a tooth.		Black balloon shape , rear swollen and blunt. Rostrum long and thin.	
		Black balloon shape , rear swollen and blunt. Rostrum long and thin.	





Quick guide to Apionids with black or metallic legs (continued)

<i>Betulapion</i> (page 58). Claws with a tooth. <i>Betulapion simile</i>	<i>Melanapion</i> (page 58). Claws with a tooth. <i>Melanapion minimum**</i>	Black-legged <i>Protapion</i> (page 59). Claws with a tooth. <i>Protapion filirostre*</i>	<i>Synapion</i> (page 59). Claws with a tooth. <i>Synapion ebeninum</i>
			
Obviously hairy.	Long but fine: obviously hairy or hardly visible.	Very short and fine: hardly visible.	Very short and fine: hardly visible.
Metallic black or bronze-black.	Black.	Black.	Black.
Birches <i>Betula</i> .	Willows <i>Salix</i> .	Medicks <i>Medicago</i> and clovers <i>Trifolium</i> .	Bird's-foot-trefoils <i>Lotus</i> .
Eye-beard. Black-bronze or metallic black. Rostrum medium to long.	Tiny, on willows . Broad striae with large beads. Rostrum short to medium, curved, antennae near base.	Black and appears hairless , rather spindly.	Pronotum long and narrow: wearing a corset. Appears hairless. Scutellum miniscule, hardly visible.


Blackish <i>Cyanapion</i> (page 60) . Rostrums long and rather broad. Antenna sockets extend forwards. Claws with a tooth.		<i>Eutrichapion ervi</i> and <i>vorax</i> (page 61). Eye-beard. Antennae yellow at base or all-yellow. Claws with a tooth.	
<i>Cyanapion afer*</i>	<i>Cyanapion gyllenhali*</i>	<i>Eutrichapion ervi</i>	<i>Eutrichapion vorax</i>
			
Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.	Obviously hairy.
Black or blue-black.	Black or blue-black.	Black.	Blue-black or metallic blue .
Meadow Vetchling <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> .	Vetches <i>Vicia</i> .	Vetchlings <i>Lathyrus</i> and vetches <i>Vicia</i> .	Vetches <i>Vicia</i> .
Male rostrum long and broad. Female like <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> , but first antenna segment longer and at least half yellow.	Head long and narrow. Eyes long. Rostrum long and broad. Pronotum wide.	Needle rostrum. Eyes wide. Antennae all yellow in male, yellow at base in female. Eye-beard.	Needle rostrum. Eyes wide. Antennae yellow at base. Eye-beard. Scutellum hairy.

Quick guide to Apionids with black or metallic legs (continued)

Hairy <i>Holotrichapion</i> (page 62). Claws with a tooth.		<i>Hemitrichapion</i> (page 62). Claws with a tooth.		<i>Hemitrichapion reflexum</i> **		Hairless <i>Eutrichapion</i> (page 63). Claws with a tooth.	
<i>Holotrichapion ononis</i>		<i>Hemitrichapion waltoni</i> *				<i>Eutrichapion punctigerum</i> *	
							
Obviously hairy.		Obviously hairy.		Obviously hairy.		Very short and fine: hardly visible.	
Black.		Metallic blue or blue-green.		Metallic blue.		Metallic blue	
Rest-harrows <i>Ononis</i> .		Horseshoe Vetch <i>Hippocrepis comosa</i> .		Sainfoin <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i> .		Vetches <i>Vicia</i> .	
Rostrum with raised white hairs all along it, thick but long. Eyes long. Pronotum groove almost as long as pronotum.		Small. Often glaucous blue. Pronotum with blue or green sheen. Obviously hairy. Rostrum medium.		Blue wing-cases. Otherwise difficult to tell from <i>Ischnopteration loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> . Long rostrum.		Rostrum narrowed in front . Pronotum punctures shallow. Hairs very short, appears hairless .	

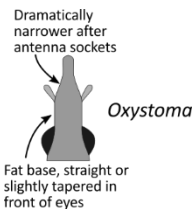
Blue <i>Holotrichapion</i> (page 64). Blue or bluish. Claws with a tooth.		<i>Ischnopteration virens</i> (page 65). Claws with a tooth.		<i>Pseudoprotapion</i> (page 65). Claws with a tooth.	
<i>Holotrichapion aethiops</i>	<i>Holotrichapion pisi</i>	<i>Ischnopteration virens</i>		<i>Pseudoprotapion astragali</i> ***	
					
Shortly hairy.	Very short and fine: hardly visible.	Obviously hairy.		Very short and fine: hardly visible.	
Metallic blue.	Metallic blue.	Metallic blue or green.		Metallic blue-green.	
Vetches <i>Vicia</i> .	Medicks <i>Medicago</i> .	Clovers <i>Trifolium</i> .		Wild Liquorice <i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i> .	
Blue . Rather broad rostrum. Long eyes , close together. Cone-shape head. No groove down pronotum.	Broad and blunt. Bright blue . Appears hairless. Small, rounded eyes. Wide pronotum. Deep, neat punctures.	Bulging eyes. Pronotum with green or blue sheen . Obviously hairy. Pronotum barrel shape, about as wide at front as at rear.		Very bright blue or green all over , including head and pronotum. Pronotum wider at rear, with deep, long groove down centre. Appears hairless.	

Quick guide to Apionids with black or metallic legs (continued)

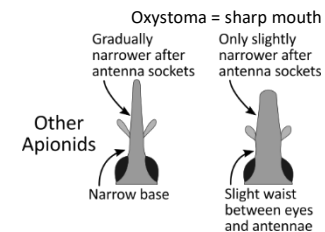
<i>Cyanapion spencii</i> (page 66). Claws with a tooth.
<i>Cyanapion spencii</i> *

Shortly hairy.
Metallic blue.
Vetches <i>Vicia</i> .
Blue. Squashed-in head and wide pronotum.



Oxystoma

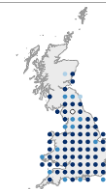
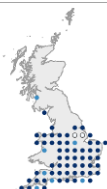
Rostrum pinched at tip, fat at base, abruptly narrowed after antenna bases in view from above. **Eyes bulging**. **Compare** No other Apionids have rostrums so dramatically and abruptly narrowed after antenna bases. However some species have a slightly pinched rostrum, and could be confused by the inexperienced: *Eutrichapion punctiger* (wing-cases blue; pronotum punctures finer and shallower; rostrum wider after antenna bases; antennae thicker). *Eutrichapion ervi* (eye beard; rostrum longer and thinner, especially at base, not so dramatically narrowed after antenna bases). *Omphalapion* (pronotum swollen, sides rounded; antenna thicker; rostrum not so dramatically narrowed after antenna bases; eyes not bulging).



The abruptly narrowed rostrum of *Oxystoma* is distinctive. The base is fat and straight or slightly tapered from eyes to the antenna sockets. The rostrums of a few other species are slightly narrower after the antenna sockets, but none of these is as dramatically narrowed as *Oxystoma*; the base of the rostrum is not so fat, and it is usually slightly narrowed in front of the eyes and slightly widened at the antenna sockets, creating a waist between the eyes and the antenna sockets.

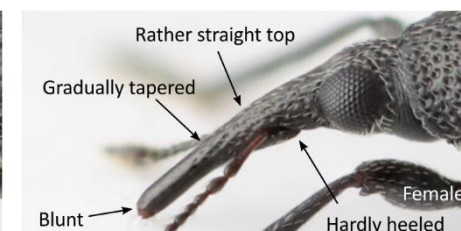
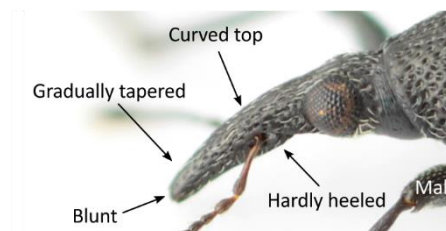




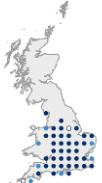
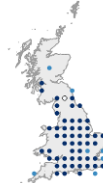
<i>Oxystoma pomonae</i>	<i>Oxystoma subulatum</i>
	
2.5-3.6 mm pōmōnae = of Pomona, goddess of fruit trees	2.4-3.0 mm sūbūlatum = like an awl
Wing-cases metallic blue. Pronotum groove little more than a short pit. On vetches <i>Vicia</i> and <i>Lathyrus</i> , but adults often found on trees. Frequent. Compare Other <i>Oxystoma</i> (wing-cases black; pronotum with longer groove; often smaller).	Rostrum longer than in other <i>Oxystoma</i> . First antenna segment pale at base, blackish at tip, longer than width of rostrum . Hairs on wing-cases finer than in other <i>Oxystoma</i> , can appear hairless. Male rostrum longer than in other black <i>Oxystoma</i> , but less obviously than in female. Rostrum rather evenly curved, not very pinched in side view. Female rostrum distinctive, tip long and slender, not very pinched in side view . On Meadow Vetchling <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> . Compare <i>Oxystoma pomonae</i> (wing-cases blue; pronotum with short groove; often larger). <i>Oxystoma cerdo</i> (rostrum shorter, clearly pinched in side view; first antenna segment shorter; pronotum slightly wider at rear, sides less parallel in rear half). <i>Oxystoma craccae</i> (antennae paler, at least first two segments mostly yellow-brown, first segment shorter; rostrum shorter, top straighter, wedge-shape rather than curved, underside with deeper heel; pronotum wider at rear, sides more rounded).



← *Oxystoma pomonae* is the only blue *Oxystoma*.

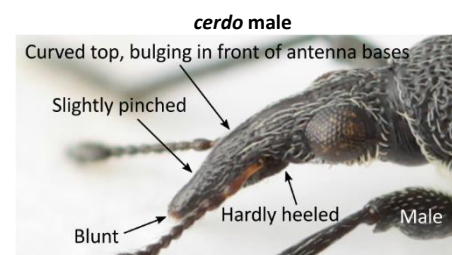
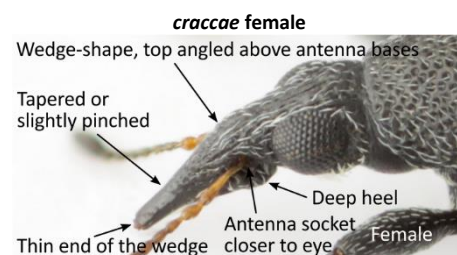
→ Rostrums of *subulatum* viewed from side and slightly above. Compare with *craccae* and *cerdo* (next page).



<i>Oxystoma cracca</i>	<i>Oxystoma cerdo</i>
	
<p>2.2-2.6 mm</p> <p><i>cracca</i> = of vetch <i>cracca</i></p> <p>Antennae paler, at least first two segments mostly pale. Pronotum sides rather rounded and slightly swollen in rear half. Rostrum wedge-shape rather than curved, antennae inserted closer to eyes than in other <i>Oxystoma</i> (less than length of eye), and rostrum tip more sharply pointed.</p> <p>Male antennae entirely yellow-brown, even the club (other <i>Oxystoma</i> have antennae pale only at base, and the club dark). Rostrum densely hairy,</p> <p>Female antennae first two segments mostly yellow-brown, rest of filament becoming gradually darker towards the tip.</p> <p>On vetches <i>Vicia</i> and <i>Lathyrus</i>.</p> <p>Compare <i>Oxystoma pomonae</i> (wing-cases blue; pronotum with short groove; often larger). <i>Oxystoma subulatum</i> (antennae darker; rostrum longer, top more curved, heel less pronounced; pronotum sides straighter at rear). <i>Oxystoma cerdo</i> (antennae darker; rostrum top more curved, tip blunter, antennae further from eye, heel less pronounced; often larger).</p> 	<p>2.4-3.0 mm</p> <p><i>cerdo</i> = craftsman</p> <p>Rostrum curved on top, bulging in front of antenna bases, shape like male <i>subulatum</i>, but more pinched at tip. First antenna segment pale at base, darker at tip, but often less black at tip than in <i>subulatum</i>, so contrast not so great.</p> <p>Male rostrum slightly pinched in side view.</p> <p>Female rostrum most pinched of all <i>Oxystoma</i> in side view, tip like the neck and shoulders of a wine bottle.</p> <p>On vetches <i>Vicia</i>.</p> <p>Compare <i>Oxystoma pomonae</i> (wing-cases blue; pronotum with short groove; often larger). <i>Oxystoma subulatum</i> (rostrum longer, hardly pinched in side view; first antenna segment longer; pronotum hardly widened at rear, sides more parallel in rear half). <i>Oxystoma cracca</i> (antennae paler; rostrum wedge-shape, tip more pointed, antennae closer to eye, deep heel; often smaller).</p> 

→Rostrums viewed from side and slightly above





Male *cracca* is distinctive in its all-yellow antennae and its very hairy rostrum. Female *cracca*, and both sexes of the other black *Oxystoma* are told apart by rostrum shape and antenna colour.

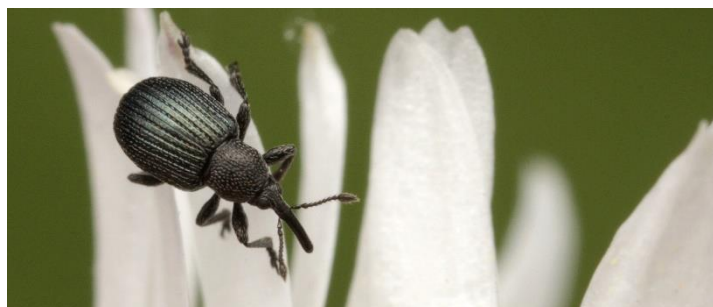


Omphalapion

Omphalapion = belly-button Apion

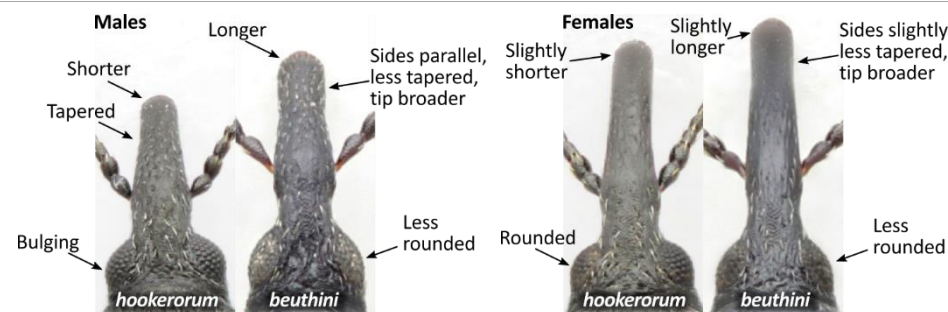
Pronotum swollen, sides and top **rounded**. Antennae inserted in the **rear** half of the rostrum. **Males black**, **females** have **coloured** wing-cases: metallic blue, green, or purple. **Claws have no tooth**. All species feed on **mayweeds or chamomiles**. **Compare** *Aizobius sedi* (wing-cases narrower; pronotum not so swollen; rostrum wider, not narrowed after antennae; deep pit in middle of rear pronotum). No other Apionids have such rounded pronotum sides. If in doubt, check also that: the claws have no tooth; the antennae are inserted less than a third of the way along the rostrum; there is no eye-beard; the wing-cases are rather broad; the pronotum is black rather than metallic; and, if possible, that male and female are different colours.



<i>Omphalapion hookerorum</i>	<i>Omphalapion beuthini</i> ***
	
1.6-2.8 mm hookerorum, after William Hooker and his brother	1.5-2.6 mm beuthini, after Dr Beuthin from Hamburg
<p>The only common <i>Omphalapion</i>. Needs careful examination to rule out the two rarer species. Wing-cases longer than in <i>beuthini</i>.</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter, sides straight but tapered from antenna bases to tip, rather trowel-shape.</p> <p>Female rostrum longer and narrower, sides very slightly tapered from antenna bases to tip.</p> <p>On Scentless Mayweed <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> and Sea Mayweed <i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>, perhaps also <i>Anthemis</i> and <i>Matricaria</i>. Frequent.</p> <p>Compare <i>Omphalapion beuthini</i> and <i>laevigatum</i> (see accounts).</p> 	<p>Very like <i>hookerorum</i> but wing-cases shorter, proportionately wider. Eyes less rounded??. Pronotum not so wide or bulging in the middle. Identification relies on subtle differences in the shape of the rostrum: longer in <i>beuthini</i>, and not so tapered after the antenna bases. Antennae inserted slightly further forward. See also <i>Omphalapion laevigatum</i> (next page).</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter than female rostrum, but longer than in male <i>hookerorum</i>. Slightly wider, tapered for some way after antenna bases, but wider at tip than in <i>hookerorum</i>, sides more or less parallel in the last third.</p> <p>Female rostrum longer than male, longer than in female <i>hookerorum</i>, very slightly thicker, especially at tip. Differences from <i>hookerorum</i> less obvious than in male, very subtle. The female shown here has a purple hue to the wing-cases, but both species can be either green, blue, or purple.</p> <p>On mayweeds <i>Anthemis</i>. Very rare.</p> 



←*Omphalapion hookerorum* is the only common species of the genus. The females have colourful wing-cases, and the males are all black. Our only other Apionid genus with this colour difference between the sexes is *Acentrotypus*.

→The difference in rostrum shape and length is more apparent in males than in females.



<i>Omphalapion laevigatum</i> ***	<i>Aizobius sedi</i> *
	
2.1-3.0 mm F laevigatum = smoothed, polished	1.7-2.4 mm sēdi = of stonecrop <i>Sedum</i>
<p>Pronotum less swollen than other <i>Omphalapion</i>, but sides and top still rounded. Long, deep groove down middle of rear half of pronotum.</p> <p>Male rostrum about as long as head and pronotum. Longer than in <i>hookerorum</i> or <i>beuthini</i>, and less tapering.</p> <p>Female easily identified by very long, thick rostrum. Wing-cases more shining and colourful than other <i>Omphalapion</i>.</p> <p>On mayweeds <i>Anthemis</i>, sometimes <i>Tripleurospermum</i> or <i>Matricaria</i>. Very rare.</p> <p>Compare Other <i>Omphalapion</i> (rostrums shorter when comparing same sex; pronotum with pit at base rather than long groove).</p>	<p>Rostrum rather short and thick, as wide at tip as at base. Antennae thick, at 1/3 to 1/2. Pronotum rounded at sides and on top, appears more rounded than in most Apionids, and often has a deep pit in the middle of the rear half, like a belly-button. Hairs on wing-cases short and fine (surface appears black), in a single row on each interval. Scutellum small. Claws untoothed or with a blunt lobe at base, but hardly toothed. Forehead may have a fine groove down the centre.</p> <p>Male rostrum slightly shorter than in female. First segment of feet has short spur on underside.</p> <p>Female rostrum slightly longer than in male. No spur on feet.</p> <p>On stonecrops <i>Sedum</i>. Uncommon, most frequent on the west coast.</p> <p>Compare <i>Omphalapion</i> (wing-cases broader; pronotum more swollen; rostrums narrower, more tapered after antennae; pronotums with a shallower, longer groove; females have coloured wing-cases). <i>Perapion curtirostre</i> (hairs longer, obviously hairy; pronotum narrower, sides straighter, pit shallow or missing). Other black Apionids have longer, narrower rostrums; many are obviously hairy, and have straighter pronotum sides, and sharply toothed claws.</p>



→*Aizobius sedi* is the only Apionid that feeds on stonecrops. Look for a small black weevil with a rather thick rostrum. It appears black and hairless unlike *Perapion*.



Colourful *Perapion* with long bodies

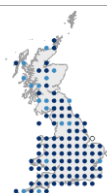
Perapion = through Apion

Wing-cases long, narrow, and colourful: metallic green, purple, or blue. **Antennae thick. Rostrum thick**, rather **square** at tip. Wing-cases rather **flat on top**. Scutellum longer than wide. **Claws have no tooth.** Compare Colourful *Perapion* with short bodies (wing-cases shorter; pronotum wider than long; scutellum about as wide as long; smaller). *Pseudaplemonus* (pronotum metallic; red, purple, pink, or copper; larger; wing-cases wider). *Ceratapion onopordi* (antennae inserted nearer base of rostrum; rostrum widened at antenna bases; pronotum longer and narrower, punctures larger and coarser, appears rougher; scutellum tiny, round). *Ceratapion* with tooth-base (antennae inserted on a sharp tooth, nearer base of rostrum). *Aspidapion aeneum* (deep groove on forehead; wing-cases smoother and more shining). Other *Aspidapion* (antennae more slender; scutellum with bosses at base; wing-cases more arched on top). *Perapion curtirostre* (wing-cases metallic black or lead; wing-cases usually not so long and narrow; hairs thicker and more obvious). Other Apionids with metallic wing-cases and black pronotum (rostrums narrower, longer; antennae more slender, inserted further forward; different shapes).

<i>Perapion violaceum</i>	<i>Perapion hydrolapathi</i>
	
2.6-3.5 mm Rostrum slightly arched, longer than in <i>hydrolapathi</i> . Pronotum slightly bulging and sides rounded at middle. (See next page.) Male rostrum short , coarsely punctured to tip, wider than in female. First segment of hind foot with a spur on underside. Female rostrum long and thick , punctures fewer and finer in front of antenna bases, almost fading out near tip. Not tapered, has slightly wavy outline from above: narrowed in front of eyes, wider at antenna bases, narrowed again after antenna bases, then slightly wider at tip. No spur on hind foot. On docks and sorrels <i>Rumex</i> . Common.	2.8-3.1 mm Rostrum short and rather straight , appears remarkably stiff from above. Pronotum narrower than in <i>violaceum</i> , sides straighter , and forehead wider, so eyes further apart . (See next page.) Male rostrum very short , densely punctured to tip, wider than in female. First segment of hind foot with a spur on underside. Female rostrum short , narrower than in male, front quarter with fewer and finer punctures, appears smoother than base. Narrower and much shorter than rostrum of female <i>hydrolapathi</i> , from above looks tapered with rather straight sides becoming narrower at tip. Females of the two species are easily separated by rostrum shape . No spur on hind foot. On docks <i>Rumex</i> . Common.

viôlăcĕum = violet

hydrolapathi = of Water Dock *Rumex hydrolapathum*



←The rostrum of female *Perapion violaceum* is of almost equal thickness throughout its length, appearing rather thick. It is longer and more curved than the rostrum of *hydrolapathi*.



↑Males of *violaceum* and *hydrolapathi* have a spur on the hind foot. The species are easier to identify when you know the sex.



→The underside of *Perapion hydrolapathi* is more sparsely and finely punctured, and finely wrinkled between the mid and hind legs and on the two segments behind the hind legs. That of *violaceum* is more or less unwrinkled, with slightly larger punctures. The difference is not that obvious: rostrum and pronotum shape are perhaps easier characters.



Perapion violaceum

Both sexes have smaller eyes, and a slightly wider forehead than *hydrolapathi*, so the eyes appear slightly further apart.

Both sexes have pronotum wider than *hydrolapathi*, sides rounded, slightly bulging in the middle.

Rostrum short, **slightly arched** on top, sides slightly wavy from above (widened at antenna bases).

Males



Perapion hydrolapathi

Both sexes have longer eyes, and a slightly narrower forehead than *violaceum*, so the eyes appear slightly closer together.

Both sexes have pronotum narrower than *violaceum*, sides rather straight, not so bulging in the middle.

Rostrum **very short**, almost straight on top, sides almost parallel from above.



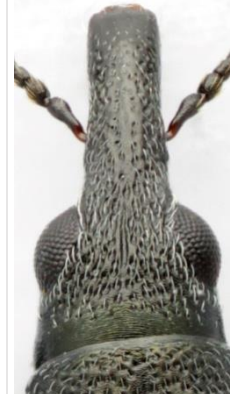
Rostrum **long**, slightly arched on top, sides slightly wavy from above (widened at antenna bases).

Females



Females have rostrums less coarsely punctured than forehead, and narrower than in males. They also lack the spur on the hind foot. Check for the spur, so you know the sex of your weevil before trying to identify it.



Rostrum short, almost straight on top, sides tapering or almost parallel from above, appears **stiff and straight**

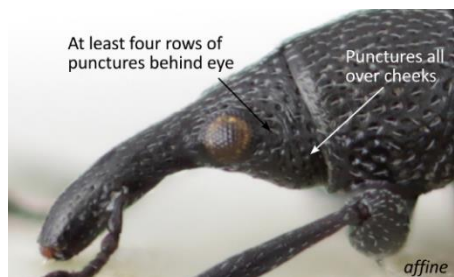
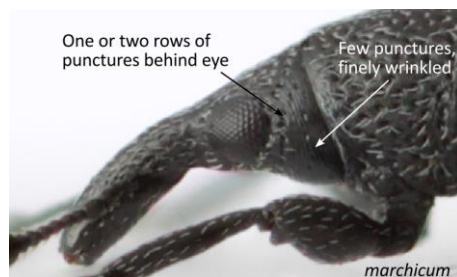
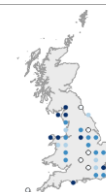
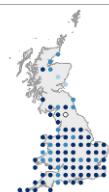


Colourful *Perapion* with short bodies

Perapion = through Apion

Wing-cases short, rounded, blunt-ended and colourful: metallic green, purple, or blue. **Antennae thick. Rostrum thick**, rather **square** at tip. Scutellum about as wide as long. **Claws have no tooth.** Compare Colourful *Perapion* with long bodies (wing-cases longer and narrower; pronotum square or longer than wide; scutellum about as wide as long; larger). *Pseudaplemonus* (pronotum metallic; red, purple, pink, or copper; larger). *Ceratapion onopordi* (antennae inserted nearer base of rostrum; rostrum widened at antenna bases; pronotum longer and narrower, punctures larger and coarser, appears rougher; scutellum tiny, round). *Ceratapion* with tooth-base (antennae inserted on a sharp tooth, nearer base of rostrum; pronotum punctures larger and coarser, appears rougher). *Aspidapion aeneum* (large; deep groove on forehead; wing-cases smoother and more shining). Other *Aspidapion* (antennae more slender; scutellum with bosses at base; wing-cases more arched on top, claws toothed). *Perapion curtirostre* (wing-cases metallic black or lead; rostrum shorter; hairs thicker and more obvious). *Holotrichapion pisi* (eyes closer together; wing-cases and pronotum appear hairless; antennae not so thick, inserted slightly further forward, claws toothed). Other Apionids with colourful wing-cases and black pronotum (rostrums narrower, longer; antennae more slender, inserted further forward; different shapes; claws toothed).

<i>Perapion marchicum</i>			<i>Perapion affine</i> **	
				
1.6-2.3 mm	MMF	marchicum = of the German Marches	1.9-2.4 mm	affine = neighbouring
Small and colourful , with rather rounded rear and thick rostrum.			Very like <i>marchicum</i> , but much rarer . Wing-cases a little broad er, but certain identification comes from the pattern of punctures on the cheeks (see below).	
Male rostrum slightly shorter and thicker than in female. Unlike the longer-bodied <i>Perapion</i> , males of <i>marchicum</i> and <i>affine</i> do not have a spur on the first segment of the hind foot.			Male rostrum slightly shorter and thicker than in female.	
Female rostrum slightly longer and narrower, smoother and with fewer and finer punctures towards tip.			Female rostrum slightly longer and narrower.	
On Sheep's Sorrel <i>Rumex acetosella</i> . Common .			On Common Sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i> . Widely distributed, but very local and uncommon .	



←The two short-bodied *Perapion* are separated by the punctures on the cheeks and underside of the head. In *marchicum* there is a row or two of punctures behind the eyes, but the rest of the cheeks have very few punctures. Instead they are finely wrinkled. There are almost no punctures on the underside of the head, which is also finely wrinkled. In *affine*, the cheeks are as densely punctured as the top of the head, with at least four rows of punctures behind the eye. The underside of the head is also densely punctured.




←*Perapion marchicum* has colourful, rather broad wing-cases. The rostrum is rather thick and tubular (sides more less parallel, of more or less equal width throughout its length). It is common on Sheep's-sorrel.

Black or lead *Perapion*

Perapion = through Apion

Wing-cases metallic black or lead-coloured, may be bluer than the pronotum, but not colourful. Antennae thick. Rostrum thick, rather square at tip. Scutellum longer than wide. Claws have no tooth. Compare Colourful *Perapion* (wing-cases colourful). *Aspidapion radiolus* and *soror* (wing-cases bluer; rostrum more arched; antennae more slender; scutellums with bosses at base; pronotum wider in middle and at rear, sides less straight; claws toothed).

<i>Perapion curtirostre</i>	<i>Perapion lemoroï***</i>
	
1.7-2.6 mm Best identified by the short, rather straight, thick rostrum . Obviously hairy. Pronotum sides rather straight , only very slightly wider in the middle. Rather variable in body size and shape, may be narrower or wider than shown here, but rostrum always short and thick, hardly tapered. Male rostrum slightly shorter and thicker than in female. Tiny spur on the underside of the first segment of the hind foot. Female rostrum slightly longer and narrower. No spur on hind foot. On docks and sorrels <i>Rumex</i> . Very common . Compare <i>Helianthemapion aciculare</i> (smaller; rostrum more tapered; wing-cases very narrow; very rare). <i>Pseudoperapion brevirostre</i> (pronotum wider, much wider than long; hairs much thicker). <i>Aizobius sedi</i> (pronotum more rounded; deep pit in middle rear of pronotum; hairs very fine, and short). <i>Hemitrichapion waltoni</i> (usually blue; eyes larger; rostrum slightly narrower; hairs thicker; antenna club smaller; claws with a tooth at base; hairs lying across front edge of pronotum). Other black Apionids (rostrums narrower, more arched; claws often have a tooth; antennae often more slender).	2.0-2.4 mm More densely hairy than <i>curtirostre</i> . Male Female On knotgrass <i>Polygonum</i> . May be extinct . Has not been seen since 1950s, and does not seem to have been found more than once in any of its four locations.



←*Perapion curtirostre* has the typical short, thick, rather straight rostrum of *Perapion*.
→The wing-cases are obviously hairy, blackish or slightly lead-metallic, lacking strong colour.→



Pseudoperapion



Pseudoperapion = false *Perapion*

Wing-cases metallic black or lead-coloured, may be bluer than the pronotum, but not colourful. Antennae thick. Rostrum thick, rather square at tip. Claws may be swollen at base, but hardly toothed.

Helianthemapion



Helianthemapion = rock-rose *Apion*

Another genus with a short, thick rostrum.

<i>Pseudoperapion brevirostre</i> ***	<i>Helianthemapion aciculare</i> ***
	
1.8-2.3 mm brevirostre = short rostrum	1.2-2.2 mm ăciculare = of pins, referring to the slender shape
<p>Hairs thick and white. Pronotum much wider than long.</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter, hairy apart from hairless band at front quarter.</p> <p>Female rostrum longer, hairy at base, bald and shining in front of antennae. Rostrum wider at base, narrower after antenna bases, but hardly tapering.</p> <p>On St John's-worts <i>Hypericum</i> in disturbed ground. Very rare. A recent discovery, perhaps a recent arrival, and so far known only from the London area.</p> <p>Compare <i>Perapion curtirostre</i> (pronotum more or less square, not much wider than long; hairs finer, much less obvious). <i>Squamapion</i> (eyes more bulging; rostrums proportionately longer and thinner, more curved; first antenna segment longer than width of rostrum; claws with a tooth at base). <i>Helianthemapion</i> (body narrow; hairs finer). <i>Melanapion minimum</i> (hairs finer; rostrum longer; striae as wide as intervals). <i>Hemitrichapion waltoni</i> (usually blue; eyes more rounded; rostrum not so wide, more downcurved; pronotum not so wide, shoulders squarer and more prominent; antennae longer and more slender; hairs lying across front edge of pronotum). Other black Apionids have proportionately longer and thinner rostrums; many have finer hairs, or more bulging eyes,</p>	<p>Tiny and ridiculously narrow, pronotum longer than wide, shoulders weak or lacking. Claws with a tooth.</p> <p>Male rostrum slightly thicker than in female.</p> <p>On Common Rock-rose <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>. Very rare, known only from Great Orme.</p> <p>Compare <i>Stenopterapion</i> (wing-cases widest in the rear half; rostrums longer and narrower, more curved). <i>Perapion</i> (wing-cases wider or colourful; claws without a tooth). No other Apionoid is this slender. Those with narrow wing-cases have wider pronotums and longer rostrums, more prominent shoulders, and often more bulging eyes. Narrow examples of <i>Betulapion</i> and <i>Squamapion</i> are perhaps the most likely to be confused with <i>Helianthemapion</i>, but they are not the same shape, and <i>Betulapion</i> has an eye-beard.</p>



←The thick hairs and half-hairy half-shiny rostrum are good field characters of *Pseudoperapion brevirostre*.

<i>Pseudaplemonus limonii</i> **		<i>Acentrotypus brunnipes</i> ***	
		 Udo Schmidt	
2.8-4.0 mm	limonii = of sea-lavender <i>Limonium</i>	1.3-1.9 mm	limonii = of sea-lavender <i>Limonium</i>
<p>A striking and distinctive weevil, uniquely coloured among the Apionidae: purple, pink, red, or copper wing-cases, head, and pronotum. Found in saltmarshes and on sea cliffs where its foodplant grows. Larger than most other Apionids. Claws have no tooth.</p> <p>Male rostrum slightly shorter than in female.</p> <p>Female rostrum slightly longer than in male.</p> <p>On sea-lavenders <i>Limonium</i>. Restricted distribution, but not uncommon in appropriate habitat. Easy to overlook, but can be found by searching under the leaves at the base of sea-lavenders.</p> <p>Compare Other Apionids are rarely red, purple, or copper. Those that might have purple wing-cases have black, not coloured, pronotum and head. Most other Apionids are also smaller and have longer and narrower rostrums.</p>		<p>A bizarre weevil, with many strange features. Striae narrow and weak, fading out in the middle of the wing-cases. Head caved in between eyes. Rostrum long but unusually wide. Antennae at $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$, very thick, club narrow, not much wider than filament. Pronotum smooth and glossy, punctures very shallow. Wing-cases appearing hairless. Legs dark brown or black.</p> <p>Male rostrum slightly shorter and duller than in female. Wing-cases black.</p> <p>Female rostrum slightly longer and shinier than in male. Wing-cases usually blue, purple, occasionally black.</p> <p>On cudweeds <i>Filago</i> and <i>Gnaphalium</i>. Very rare. Not seen since 1937, but a recent record from Kent brings hope that it may still survive in Britain.</p> <p>Compare No other Apionid has striae so weak or club so narrow. Few have such a broad rostrum or a caved in head, and none has both.</p>	



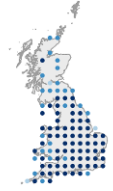
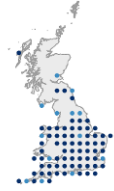


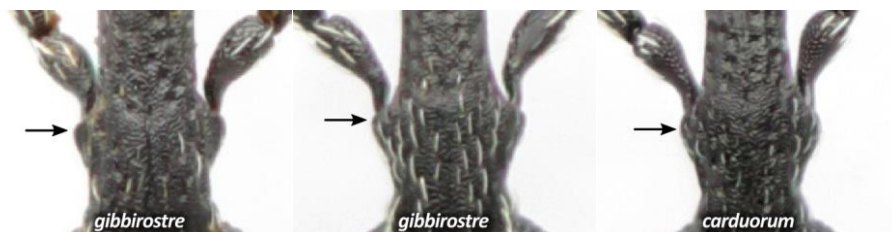
←*Pseudaplemonus limonii* is one of our most distinctive Apionids. The purple, gold, or copper colour is distinctive enough. Note too the thick rostrum.

Ceratapion with a tooth-base

Ceratapion = horn Apion, from the rostrum tooth

Wing-cases metallic blue or green, head and pronotum black. Antennae inserted near the **base** of the rostrum on a small **tooth**. **Triangle patches of denser hairs** on either side of scutellum, but these often wear off. **Claws have no tooth**. Compare *Ceratapion onopordi* (rostrum widened at antenna bases, but not forming a sharp tooth; pronotum disproportionately long compared to wing-cases; head and pronotum with more shining surface). Colourful *Perapion* (antennae inserted further forward, not on a tooth; rostrums thicker). *Aspidapion aeneum* (deep groove on forehead; no tooth on rostrum; pronotum wider). Other *Aspidapion* (antennae slender; no tooth on rostrum; pronotum more flaring at rear; claws toothed). Other Apionids with colourful wing-cases (no tooth on rostrum; antennae inserted further forward; claws toothed). *Stenopterapion meliloti* is perhaps the most likely to be confused).

<i>Ceratapion gibbirostre</i>	<i>Ceratapion carduorum</i>
	
2.0-2.9 mm gibbirostre = hunched rostrum	2.8-3.2 mm F carduorum = of thistles Carduus
<p>As a pair, <i>gibbirostre</i> and <i>carduorum</i> are easily recognised by the metallic blue (rarely green) wing-cases and tooth on the rostrum, but they are not easy to separate from each other. See <i>carduorum</i>.</p> <p>Male has a spur on the underside of the first segment of the hind foot. Rostrum slightly shorter and thicker than in female.</p> <p>Female rostrum slightly longer and narrower than in male. No spur on hind foot.</p> <p>On thistles <i>Carduus</i> and <i>Cirsium</i>. Common.</p> <p>There is one old record of <i>Ceratapion armatum</i> from the New Forest in 1934. This species has black wing-cases, not blue or green, and a narrower abdomen. It feeds on knapweeds <i>Centaurea</i>. Any black, tooth-base <i>Ceratapion</i> is worth checking against <i>armatum</i>, especially if it is from knapweeds.</p> <p>Both this species and <i>carduorum</i> have been much confused. See <i>carduorum</i>. A male <i>Ceratapion armatum</i> was found in the New Forest in 1938, but the species has never been found before or since in Britain. It is like a smaller, narrower <i>gibbirostre</i>/<i>carduorum</i> without any blue colour. It lives on knapweeds <i>Centaurea</i>.</p> 	<p>Very like <i>gibbirostre</i>, but tooth on rostrum is blunt when seen from above. Rostrum slightly longer when comparing same sex. On average larger.</p> <p>Male has a spur on the underside of the first segment of the hind foot. Rostrum slightly shorter and thicker than in female.</p> <p>Female rostrum slightly longer and narrower than in male. No spur on hind foot.</p> <p>On thistles <i>Carduus</i> and <i>Cirsium</i>. Common, but less frequent than <i>gibbirostre</i>.</p> <p>The name <i>carduorum</i> has been much confused in Britain and Ireland. For a long time, only one species of tooth-base <i>Ceratapion</i> was recognised here, so both <i>gibbirostre</i> and <i>carduorum</i> were included under the name <i>carduorum</i>. In 1941 Tottenham when recognised that there were in fact two species here he described one of them as new to science, <i>Carduorum lacertense</i>. The other one he referred to <i>carduorum</i>. Unfortunately, the species he described as <i>lacertense</i> is in fact the true <i>carduorum</i>, and his <i>lacertense</i> is <i>gibbirostre</i>. This error was corrected in the 1990s. If a British text includes <i>lacertense</i> as a species, when it uses <i>carduorum</i> it means <i>gibbirostre</i>, and when it uses <i>lacertense</i> it means the true <i>carduorum</i>.</p> 



↑ The point of the rostrum tooth of *carduorum* is not quite as sharp as that of *gibbirostre*, and not so angled forward. This difference is very subtle, and difficult to see appreciate unless you have several examples of both to compare.



← All *Ceratapion* have long, rather thick antennae inserted near the base of the long rostrum. Both *gibbirostre* and *carduorum* have a tooth on the side of the rostrum at the antenna base. *Ceratapion onopordi* has no tooth, but the rostrum sides are slightly wider at the antenna bases.

Ceratapion onopordi



Wing-cases metallic blue or green, head and pronotum black. Antennae thick inserted near the base of the rostrum, the rostrum widened at base of antennae. Fore body appears long and waist further back because pronotum is rather tight and elongate compared to the wing-cases. Claws have no tooth.

Ceratapion = horn Apion

Aspidapion aeneum

A large very colourful and shining Apionid. Deep groove down forehead is unique among the Apionids.

Aspidapion = shield Apion

<i>Ceratapion onopordi</i>	<i>Aspidapion aeneum</i>
	
2.4-2.9 mm Rostrum smoothly widened at antenna bases. Pronotum rather long and narrow, sides rather straight, disproportionately long compared to wing-cases. This gives <i>onopordi</i> a subtle but distinctive look of having the waist further back than in other Apionids. Head and pronotum deeply pitted. Scutellum tiny and round. Male rostrum slightly shorter and thicker than in female. Neither sex has a spur on the hind feet. On thistles <i>Cirsium</i> and <i>Carduus</i> . Very common. Compare <i>Ceratapion</i> with a tooth-base (rostrum with a tooth at antenna bases; pronotum not so long compared to rest of body; head and pronotum with duller and rougher surface; pronotum punctures smaller; head less deeply punctured). Colourful <i>Perapion</i> (antennae inserted further forward, rostrum not so widened at antenna bases, thicker). <i>Aspidapion aeneum</i> (deep groove on forehead; no tooth on rostrum; pronotum wider). <i>Squamapion</i> (wing-cases black; pronotums wider; antennae not so thick). Other <i>Aspidapion</i> (antennae slender; pronotum more flaring at rear; scutellum with bosses at base). Other Apionids with colourful wing-cases (no tooth on rostrum; antennae inserted further forward, pronotums not no disproportionately long).	2.9-3.6 mm Head and pronotum black, wing-cases very smooth and shiny, metallic green or blue. Deep, sharp groove between eyes. Male rostrum slightly shorter and thicker than in female. On Common Mallow <i>Malva sylvestris</i> and other Malvaceae. Common. Compare No other Apionid has such a deep groove down the forehead or is this shiny and smooth-looking. <i>Diplapion</i> (groove u or v shape, wing-cases black; rostrums more tapered). <i>Cyanapion spencei</i> (different shape; forehead depressed, but not with sharp groove; wing-cases not so shiny; antennae slender, inserted further forward).



←The pronotum of *Ceratapion onopordi* is long, with rather straight sides, and large punctures.



←The large, dense punctures on the pronotum of *Ceratapion onopordi* are a good field character.



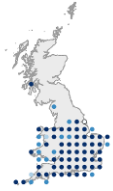

→The antennae of *Ceratapion onopordi* are inserted near the base of the rostrum. The rostrum is slightly widened at the antenna bases, but there is not a distinct tooth, like there is in the other *Ceratapion* species. The long pronotum, with straight sides, makes the front part of the weevil look stretched out and longer than in most Apionids.

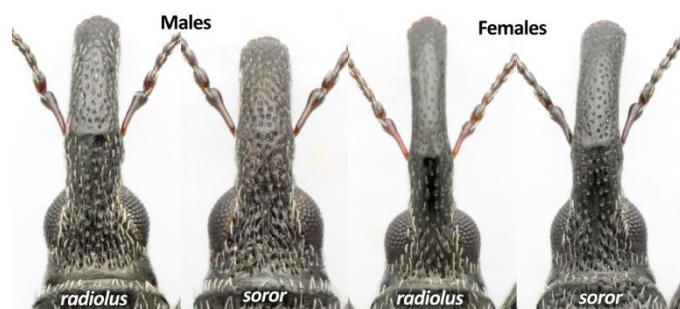


Other Aspidapion

Aspidapion = shield Apion

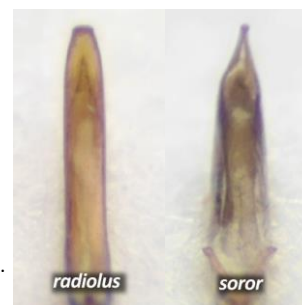
Two species that feed on **mallows**. **Wing-cases blackish or dull metallic blue or green**, head and pronotum black. **Antennae inserted near the base** of the rostrum. **Triangle patches** of denser hairs on either side of scutellum, but these often wear off. **Scutellum long**, with **raised tip** and **two bosses at base**. **Compare** No other Apionid has the raised bosses at the base of the scutellum. *Ceratapion onopordi* (antennae thicker; pronotum disproportionately long compared to wing-cases, tighter; claws without a tooth). Colourful *Perapion* (antennae thick; wing-cases flatter on top; claws without a tooth). *Aspidapion aeneum* (deep groove on forehead; wing-cases smoother and more shiny; pronotum wider; antennae thicker). Other Apionids with colourful wing-cases (antennae inserted further forward, more slender; shapes different). *Stenopteraion meliloti* is perhaps the most likely to be confused).

<i>Aspidapion radiolus</i>	<i>Aspidapion soror</i> ***
	
<p>2.7-3.3 mm</p> <p>rădiolus = small rod, referring to the bosses on the scutellum</p>	<p>2.5-3.0 mm</p> <p>sōror = sister (indicating close relationship and resemblance to radiolus)</p>
<p>Antennae inserted about a third of the way along the rostrum, nearer the base than most other colourful Apionids, apart from <i>Ceratapion</i> and <i>Perapion</i>. The distinctive scutellum is unique, but needs high magnification.</p> <p>Male has an inward pointing spur at the end of each tibia, front tibiae curved inwards at the tip. Rostrum shorter and thicker than in female, slightly tapering after antenna bases.</p> <p>Female has no spur at the end of the tibiae, front tibiae more or less straight. Rostrum longer beyond the antennae than in male, narrowed after antenna bases, then becoming slightly wider at tip, smoother and more shining.</p> <p>On Common Mallow <i>Malva sylvestris</i> and other Malvaceae. Common.</p> 	<p>Very like <i>radiolus</i>, but rostrum duller, thicker and shorter when comparing same sex. Difference I shape is most obvious in females, but dissected males are easily identified by the shape of the aedeagus.</p> <p>Male has an inward pointing spur at the end each tibia, front tibiae curved inwards at the tip. Rostrum shorter and thicker than in female. Sides straighter than in <i>radiolus</i>, hardly tapering after antenna bases, punctures coarser.</p> <p>Female has no spur at the end of the tibiae, front tibiae more or less straight. Rostrum longer beyond the antennae than in male, but about the same width as in male. Rostrum duller and wider than in female <i>radiolus</i>, hardly narrowed after antenna bases, so sides straighter.</p> <p>On Marsh Mallow <i>Althaea officinalis</i>. Uncommon. Its host plant is scarce. Look for <i>Aspidapion soror</i> wherever Marsh Mallow occurs, but beware that <i>radiolus</i> can also feed on Marsh Mallow.</p> 



← Differences in rostrums. Female *soror* is rather similar to male *radiolus*, but male *soror* and female *radiolus* are more distinctive. The weevils can be sexed by the spur on the front tibiae of males.

Male *radiolus*: long and wide, dull.
 Male *soror*: **short** and wide, dull.
 Female *radiolus*: long and **thin, shiny**.
 Female *soror*: long and wide, dull.



← The aedeaguses of *radiolus* and *soror* have very different tips. This is the clearest way to distinguish the species.




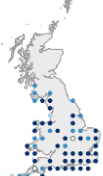


↑ *Aspidapion radiolus* is common on mallows. It is usually slightly metallic blue or green.

Diplapion

Aspidapion = shield Apion

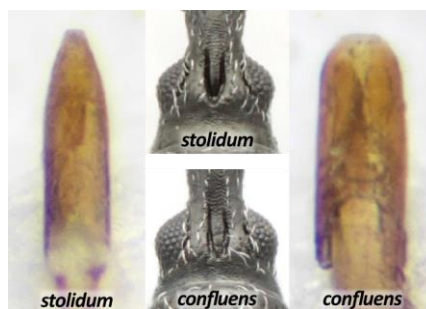
Two species that feed on **daises or mayweeds**. **Black**. **Antennae thick, inserted near the base** of the rostrum. Deep **u or v shape groove** on forehead. Pronotum with punctures **sparse**, well separated, and deep pit in the middle of the rear half. **Claws have no tooth**. **Compare** No other Apionid has a u or v shape groove on the forehead. The thick antennae inserted near the base (about a quarter of the way along the rostrum) are shared with *Ceratapion*, and similar to some *Perapion* (see accounts). *Aspidapion aeneum* (single deep straight groove on forehead; wing-cases colourful, smooth and shiny).

<i>Diplapion stolidum</i> *	<i>Diplapion confluens</i>
	
1.8-2.3 mm	2.0-2.5 mm
<p>The v or u shape groove between the eyes immediately identifies <i>Diplapion</i>, although in some individuals the arms of the v might not join at the base, so there may be two separate grooves instead.</p> <p>Male has a tiny spur on the underside of the first segment of the hind foot. Aedeagus narrowed at tip.</p> <p>Female has no spur on the hind feet.</p> <p>On Oxeye Daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>. Uncommon.</p> 	<p>Very like <i>stolidum</i>, but groove often narrower and shallower at rear. Wing-cases longer, the striae finer, fading out at the rear. Pronotum flatter on top. These differences are difficult to appreciate unless you have a series of specimens to compare, and there may be some overlap. Dissected males are easily identified by the shape of the aedeagus.</p> <p>Male has a tiny spur on the underside of the first segment of the hind foot. Aedeagus broad and blunt at tip.</p> <p>Female has no spur on the hind feet.</p> <p>On mayweeds <i>Tripleurospermum</i>, <i>Anthemis</i>, and <i>Matricaria</i>. Uncommon.</p> 



←*Diplapion stolidum*. The deep v or u on the forehead is unique to *Diplapion*. Other field clues are the long, thick antennae inserted near the base of the long rostrum.

→The aedeagus of *stolidum* is narrower and more pointed than in *confluens*. The forehead groove of *stolidum* is sometimes deeper than *confluens*, especially at the rear, but there is too much variation for this to be a reliable distinguishing feature.



←*Diplapion confluens*. Is often narrower than *stolidum*, but there is some overlap between the species.

Narrow *Squamapion*

Squāmapion = scaled *Apion*

Antennae inserted near the base of the rostrum, about a quarter of the way along. **Eyes bulging**. Pronotum sides rather rounded in middle but straighter at front at rear. Wing-cases not much wider than rear of pronotum, so body looks rather like a **long oval**. **Hairs thick**, in fresh weevils they are matted into **neat pin-stripes** down the intervals, contrasting with more random hairs in the striae. Hairs lying **forwards across front edge of pronotum** rather than along it (this is unusual in the Apionids, but it is shared with a few other species, notably *Hemitrichapion waltoni* and *Holotrichapion ononis*). **Front tibiae often brown** or black with slightly browner bases, femurs black or part black, part dark brown. **Antenna filament pale to dark brown**. Claws have a tooth at the base, but this is hard to see. First stria continues to front edge of wing-cases, well in front of the tip of the scutellum, but this too is hard to see. [Compare Wide *Squamapion*](#) (wing-cases proportionately much wider, sides more rounded; antenna filament blackish). *Catapion* (eyes less bulging; antennae inserted further along rostrum; tibiae black). *Exapion ulicis* (more densely scaled; front femurs brown; antennae inserted on a tooth; pronotum wide; legs longer; rostrum longer and thicker). Other yellow-legged Apionids (femurs pale; different shape bodies; hairs often finer). *Ceratapion* (wing-cases metallic green or blue; antennae thicker; hairs finer; pronotums much narrower than wing-cases).

*Squamapion cineraceum**



1.7-2.3 mm

cinērācēum = ashy

Squamapion cineraceum and *flavimanum* have a distinctive shape: **eyes rounded**, bulging in males, **antennae inserted near base of rostrum**, **wing-cases narrow**, not much wider than pronotum. Separating the two species is harder. The sexes within each species are more different than are the two species, so it is important to know whether you have a male or a female. **Rostrum smooth and shining** beyond antenna bases, clearly smoother than forehead. Hairs form denser patches in **white block above mid legs** and **stripe below edge of wing-cases** between mid and hind legs.

Male rostrum about as long as head and pronotum combined, less hairy than forehead. Slightly microsculptured, but less so than forehead. Eyes larger and more rounded than in female.

Female rostrum longer than head and pronotum combined, evenly **arched**, surface **smooth and shining** between punctures.

On **Self-heal** *Prunella vulgaris*. Uncommon.

[Compare *Squamapion flavimanum*](#) (see next page)



*Squamapion flavimanum**



1.6-2.0 mm

flāvīmānm = yellow-handed

Like *cineraceum*, but **rostrum duller** and rougher, about as rough and microsculptured as forehead, smooth and shining only for last fifth or so. **Front legs thinner**: femurs more slender, tibiae thinner. Hairs not forming white patches on underside.

Male rostrum shorter than head and pronotum combined, **shorter** than in male *cineraceum*, surface **rough and dull** and **hairy** (as hairy as forehead) almost to tip. Eyes larger and more rounded than in female.

Female rostrum about as long as head and pronotum combined, **angled** at antenna bases in side view, less hairy than forehead, surface **rough and dull** almost to tip.

On **Marjoram** *Origanum vulgare* and perhaps Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare*. Uncommon. Scarcer than *cineraceum*, and almost restricted to chalk grassland.

[Compare *Squamapion cineraceum*](#) (see next page).



←In the field, *Squamapion cineraceum* (and *flavimanum*) often appear to have some of the hairs in lines down the wing-cases. The antennae are inserted near the base of the rostrum, and the eyes are rather large and bulging. The front tibiae are usually at least slightly brownish. These features help separate them from...

→*Catapion seniculus*, which is uniformly or randomly hairy, has less prominent eyes, antennae inserted at a third or half way along the rostrum, and blackish front tibiae.



Squamapion cineraceum

Males



Rostrum medium, longer than male *flavimanum*, but shorter than female of either species. May be less hairy beyond antenna bases, but still hairier than in female of either species. Punctures finer and sparser than on forehead.

Females



Rostrum long and arched, appears **smooth and shiny**. More less **hairless** beyond antenna bases. Punctures on top of rostrum much sparser and finer than on forehead.



Scales above mid legs denser and thicker, forming white stripe below edge of wing-cases.

Squamapion flavimanum



Rostrum shorter than male *cineraceum*, straighter. **Hairy and dull from forehead almost to tip**. Punctures on rostrum about as coarse as on forehead.



Rostrum medium to long, but less arched than in female *cineraceum*, more angled than curved, **dull and rough**. Hairs beyond antenna bases much shorter and finer than on forehead. Punctures on rostrum about as coarse as on forehead.







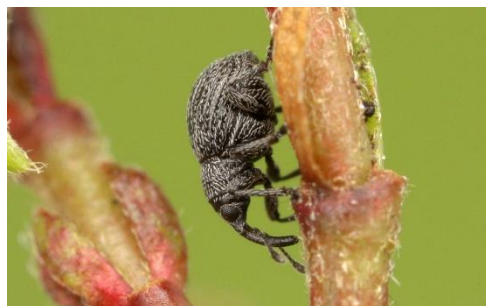
Scales above mid legs hardly denser and thicker, not forming such an obvious stripe below edge of wing-cases.

Wide *Squamapion*

Squāmapion = scaled *Apion*

Antennae inserted near the base of the rostrum, about a quarter of the way along. **Wing-cases black**. Eyes rounded, but hardly bulging forward. **Pronotum wider at rear**, narrowed at front, **wider than long**. **Wing-cases rather broad**. Hairs lying **forwards across front edge of pronotum** rather than along it (this is unusual in the Apionids, but it is shared with a few other genera). Antennae blackish, only first segment is brown or dark brown. Claws have a tooth at the base. As in the narrow *Squamapion*, the first stria continues to front edge of wing-cases, well in front of the tip of the scutellum, but this is hard to see. [Compare](#) Narrow *Squamapion* (wing-cases proportionately much narrower, pronotums about as wide at rear as at front). *Catapion* (antennae inserted further along rostrum; wing-cases proportionately narrower and longer).

<i>Squamapion atomarium</i> *	<i>Squamapion vicinum</i> *
	
1.1-1.7 mm atomarium = like an atom	1.8-2.2 mm F vicinum = close to, referring to its similarity to other species
<p>The smallest Apionid. Wing-cases hardly wider than rear of pronotum, so shoulders not prominent. Hairs thick.</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter than that of female.</p> <p>On thyme <i>Thymus</i>. Frequent.</p> <p>Compare Small size, thick hairs, antenna at base of rostrum, and short, round shape are distinctive. <i>Squamapion vicinum</i> (larger; shoulders more prominent; pronotum more strongly constricted in front third; hairs finer and shorter).</p> 	<p>Distinctive broad shoulders. Pronotum flares out at rear, abruptly narrowed with straighter sides at front. Hairs finer than in <i>atomarium</i>, but <u>usually appears more thickly hairy than the specimen shown here</u>, which is rather worn.</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter than that of female.</p> <p>On mints <i>Mentha</i>, most often in wetlands. Uncommon.</p> <p>Compare <i>Squamapion atomarium</i> (smaller; shoulders less prominent; pronotum not so strongly constricted in front third; hairs thicker and longer). <i>Melanapion minimum</i> (shoulders weaker; rostrum thicker; striae wider, beads larger; pronotum narrower at rear, not flaring). Other black Apionids have the antennae inserted further along the rostrum, different shape pronotums, and narrower, less square shoulders.</p> 

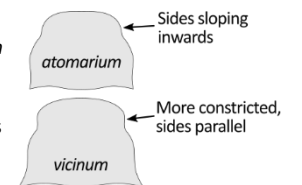


← *Squamapion atomarium* appears as a tiny, squat, black weevil on thyme.

→ The shoulders of *atomarium* are not much wider than the rear of the pronotum.



← The pronotum of *Squamapion vicinum* is more tightly constricted at the front, and the rear is more flaring. The shoulders are rather square and much wider than the rear of the pronotum.



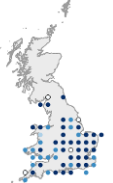
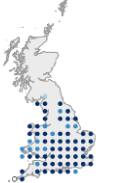


↑ The difference in pronotum shape is subtle.

Catapion

Catapion = utterly Apion

Small, black, and hairy. Pronotums proportionately **shorter** than most other Apionids. **Antennae** at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$. Eyes rounded. Claws have a tooth at the base. No eye-beard. **Compare** Narrow *Squamapion* (eyes more rounded, bulging slightly forwards; antennae dark brown to pale brown, inserted nearer the base of the rostrum; front tibiae dark to pale brown at base). *Betulapion simile* (larger; eye-beard; hairs on underside denser, underside appearing whiter; eyes larger). *Melanapion minimum* (striae wider; less hairy; rostrum thicker, wider at tip). Other hairy black Apionids have longer and narrower rostrums, and wing-cases with sides more rounded.

<i>Catapion pubescens</i>	<i>Catapion seniculus</i>
	
1.7-2.2 mm pūbescens = shortly hairy	1.5-2.3 mm MMF sēnicūlus = little old man
<p>Pronotum wide, proportionately shorter and wider than almost all other Apionids. Head depressed between the eyes, forehead appearing squashed in. Shoulders prominent and square.</p> <p>Male rostrum wider and shorter than that of female, more hairy, not so shiny.</p> <p>On yellow-flowered trefoils <i>Trifolium</i>. Frequent, but less common than <i>seniculus</i>.</p> <p>Compare No other Apionid has black wing-cases, pronotum wider than long, and a caved in forehead.</p> 	<p>A very common Apionid in the south, with few distinctive features. Antennae inserted about a third to less than half way along the rostrum, rather narrow wing-cases, and rather thick hairs are the main features, but the hairs can wear off, and the shape and length of the rostrum are rather variable. Identification usually a matter of ruling out all similar species. See also <i>Catapion curtisii</i>.</p> <p>Male rostrum wider and shorter than that of female.</p> <p>On clovers, especially Red Clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>. Common.</p> <p>Compare <i>Melanapion minimum</i> (less hairy; rostrum wider, especially at tip; striae wider). <i>Betulapion betulae</i> (larger; eye-beard; eyes larger. <i>Stenopterapion tenue</i> (hairs finer; head longer; wing-cases proportionately longer and narrower, widest behind the middle; pronotum longer and narrower). <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> (rostrum longer; wing-cases wider, widest further back; legs longer). Narrow <i>Squamapion</i> (eyes more bulging; antennae inserted nearer the base of the rostrum). <i>Perapion curtirostre</i> (rostrum thicker, straighter; hairs smaller and neater; claws have no tooth). <i>Stenopterapion meliloti</i>, <i>intermedium</i>, and <i>scutellare</i> (wing-cases blue or bluish, widest behind the middle, proportionately longer; rostrums longer; claws with a tooth). <i>Hemitrichapion waltoni</i> (usually blue; wing-cases wider, shoulders square and more prominent; usually larger). Other Apionids have wider wing-cases and longer rostrums, and often blue or green wing-cases.</p> 




←The caved-in forehead of *Catapion pubescens* is a good field character, but it needs good light and the right angle.

→The broad shoulders and wide pronotum of *Catapion pubescens* are visible whatever the conditions. The caved-in forehead here appears as a darker patch.



←*Catapion seniculus* usually looks grey-hairy, with a narrow oval body shape, wing-cases widest just in front of the middle. *Squamapion* can look similar in the field, but their antennae are inserted further back, near the base of the rostrum.



Catapion curtisii***	
	
1.6-2.2 mm	F
curtisii, after John Curtis	
<p>Very like <i>seniculus</i>. Both sexes more sparsely and finely hairy than <i>seniculus</i>, but hairs in <i>seniculus</i> can wear off. Females identified by obviously shorter and shinier rostrum than in female <i>seniculus</i>. Male rostrum shorter than that of <i>seniculus</i>, but not so obviously, and considerable variation in length of rostrum of male <i>seniculus</i> causes confusion.</p> <p>Male rostrum wider and shorter than that of female, more hairy, not so shiny.</p> <p>On clovers <i>Trifolium</i>. Rare, mostly coastal.</p> <p>Compare Distinguished from other species by the same features as <i>seniculus</i>.</p>	



Stenopterapion

Stenopterapion = narrow Apion

Wing-cases long and narrow, widest behind the middle (or about the middle in *scutellare*). Rostrum long, antennae inserted around the middle. Claws have a tooth at the base. [Compare](#) *Helianthemapion aciculare* (smaller; rostrum thick and short; antennae thicker, shoulders hardly apparent). Other Apionids usually have proportionately wider and shorter wing-cases, widest at or in front of the middle; those most likely to cause confusion are dealt with under each species.



Stenopterapion meliloti			Stenopterapion scutellare*		
					
2.2-3.3 mm	F	mēlilōti = of melilot	2.5-3.3 mm	F	scutellare, from the long scutellum
<p>Wing-cases bright blue, hairs fine but still obvious. Head long, tapering from rear to eyes, with long cheeks behind eyes. Head punctured, but with punctureless, hairless, shining band at rear. Pronotum sides rather straight.</p> <p>Male rostrum slightly wider and shorter than that of female.</p> <p>On melilots <i>Melilotus</i>. Frequent.</p> <p>Compare <i>Stenopterapion scutellare</i> (duller blue; female rostrum narrower and longer, more arched; scutellum much longer; wing-cases wider, sides more rounded). Colourful <i>Perapion</i> with long bodies (heads wider; antennae thicker and shorter; claws without a tooth). <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (wing-cases proportionately shorter and wider, blackish). <i>Ceratapion</i> (antennae inserted near base of rostrum, thicker; wing-cases proportionately wider, shoulders more prominent; claws without a tooth). <i>Aspidapion radiolus</i> and <i>soror</i> (antennae inserted further back, a quarter to a third of the way along the rostrum; scutellum longer, with bosses at base, tip raised; pronotum sides more undulating, flaring at rear). <i>Ischnopterapion virens</i> (wing-cases wider, shoulders more prominent; eyes bulging; pronotum and head metallic green or blue). Other blue Apionids have obviously proportionately shorter and wider wing-cases. <i>Stenopterapion tenue</i> (blackish; smaller; flat back; pronotum proportionately longer and narrower).</p>			<p>The widest Stenopterapion, but wing-cases still proportionately longer and narrower than most Apionids. Wing-cases dull blue. Scutellum long, with a faint groove down the centre, but the groove can be hard to see.</p> <p>Male rostrum wider and shorter than that of female.</p> <p>Female rostrum very long and arched. The rostrum of the female is much longer and more arched than that of <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> or <i>Stenopterapion meliloti</i>.</p> <p>On gorse <i>Ulex</i>. Local.</p> <p>Compare <i>Stenopterapion meliloti</i> (brighter blue; scutellum shorter; wing-cases narrower, sides straighter). <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (smaller; scutellum shorter, smooth, not grooved; eyes not so long; wing-cases blackish). <i>Aspidapion radiolus</i> and <i>soror</i> (antennae inserted further back, a quarter to a third of the way along the rostrum; scutellum with bosses at base, tip raised; pronotum sides more undulating, flaring at rear). Colourful <i>Perapion</i> with long bodies (heads wider; antennae thicker and shorter; claws without a tooth). <i>Eutrichapion vorax</i> (antennae yellow at base; eye-beard). <i>Cyanapion afer</i> (smaller; rostrum broader; antenna sockets extend forwards in front of antenna bases.).</p>		



←*Stenopterapion meliloti* has a more or less square pronotum.

→Long, narrow, blue wing-cases, and long rostrum are good field characters for *Stenopterapion meliloti*. Note too the shining smooth band at the back of the head.



Stenopterapion tenue		Stenopterapion intermedium***	
			
1.6-2.3 mm	tênũe = slim	2.1-2.7 mm	F intermêdium = intermediate
<p>Wing-cases long, narrow, and black, obviously hairy. Head long, with long cheeks behind eyes (usually more than an eye-length between rear of eyes and front of pronotum). Head with coarse punctures all the way to rear. Wing-cases rather flat on top. Pronotum punctures mostly much more than a puncture-width apart.</p> <p>Male rostrum slightly shorter than that of female.</p> <p>On medicks <i>Medicago</i>. Common.</p> <p>Compare <i>Stenopterapion intermedium</i> (see account). <i>Stenopterapion meliloti</i> (larger; wing-cases blue, not flat on top; pronotum proportionately shorter and wider). <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> (wing-cases proportionately wider and shorter; pronotum wider). <i>Catapion seniculus</i> and <i>curtisii</i> (hairs thicker; heads shorter; wing-cases proportionately shorter and wider, widest at the middle; pronotum proportionately shorter and wider). <i>Helianthemapion aciculare</i> (smaller; rostrum thick and short). <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (usually larger; wing-cases proportionately shorter and wider; pronotum wider than long). Other black Apionids have wing-cases proportionately shorter and wider, and sometimes pronotums wider than long. <i>Stenopterapion meliloti</i> (larger; wing-cases blue, more rounded on top; pronotum proportionately wider).</p>		<p>Larger than <i>tenue</i>, hairs thicker and longer. Head with three or four rows of punctures behind eyes, but then a puncture-free smooth or finely wrinkled zone behind the punctures. Pronotum punctures closer together, mostly less than a puncture width apart.</p> <p>Male rostrum slightly shorter than that of female</p> <p>On Sainfoin <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>. Very rare.</p> <p>Compare <i>Stenopterapion tenue</i> (smaller; hairs finer and shorter, appears blacker; head with punctures all the way to rear; pronotum punctures closer together). Differs from other species by the same features as <i>tenue</i>.</p>	



←A tiny, thin black Apionid is likely to be *Stenopterapion tenue*. It is narrow all the way from the head to the rear.

→Note the long head of *Stenopterapion tenue*, with punctures all the way from the eyes to the rear.




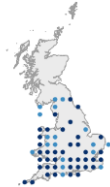


←*Stenopterapion intermedium* has thicker hairs than *tenue*: it appears grey rather black. Note the unpunctured but wrinkled band at the rear of the head (band appears blacker because the hairs come from punctures: here there are no punctures, so no pale hairs).

Blackish *Ischnopterapion*

Ischnopterapion = thin *Apion*

Ischnopterapion loti is the **commonest black-legged Apionid**, but it has no outstanding feature. Wing-cases **blackish**, usually with a **faint hint of blue**, **obviously hairy**, **widest just behind the middle**. **Rostrum long**, but not particularly thick nor thin. Eyes rounded. Pronotum slightly wider than long, with a pit or short groove in the middle of the rear half. Antenna at $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$. Claws have a tooth at the base. [Compare](#) *Stenopterapion melloti* (wing-cases brighter blue, proportionately longer and narrower). *Stenopterapion scutellare* (larger; scutellum longer, grooved; eyes longer; wing-cases bluer). *Stenopterapion tenue* (smaller; wing-cases proportionately longer and narrower; pronotum longer than wide). *Catapion seniculus* (rostrum shorter; wing-cases narrower, widest at the middle; hairs thicker; legs shorter). *Aspidapion radiolus* and *soror* (scutellums with bosses at base and tip raised; rostrums thicker; wing-cases narrower, widest at middle; pronotums more bell-shape). *Betulapion simile* (eye-beard; patches of thick white hair-scales on underside). *Pirapion* and *Protopirapion* (wing-cases swollen at rear, rears more rounded; shoulders less square, almost absent). *Ischnopterapion virens* (wing-cases brighter green; pronotum metallic, with green or blue sheen). *Cyanapion afer* (rostrum wider, especially in male, more arched, and duller; first antenna segment pale yellow in rear half, clearly longer than width of rostrum; hairs finer; antenna socket continues in front of antenna base). *Holotrichapion aethiops* (wing-cases blue; hairs on wing-cases finer; eyes longer). *Hemitrichapion waltoni* (see account). Other Apionids are brighter blue or green, or have thicker or thinner or shorter rostrums, or have antennae inserted nearer the base of the rostrum; or appear almost hairless at $\times 10$.



<i>Ischnopterapion loti</i>	<i>Ischnopterapion modestum</i>
	
<p>2.0-2.5 mm</p> <p>The default blackish Apionid. If your weevil is bluer, has a shorter or wider or thinner rostrum, or no obvious hairs, or antennae at $\frac{1}{4}$ or near the base, then you can rule out <i>loti</i> and <i>modestum</i>.</p> <p>Male rostrum slightly shorter than in female, but difference is slight.</p> <p>On bird's-foot-trefoils <i>Lotus</i>. Very common.</p> <p>Compare See compare list for Blackish <i>Ischnopterapion</i> (above). <i>Ischnopterapion modestum</i> (see account).</p> <p>pūbescens = shortly hairy</p> 	<p>2.0-2.5 mm</p> <p>Very like <i>loti</i>, but on average rostrum longer, wing-cases larger, but there is much variation within both species. The shape of the aedeagus will separate the two, but even this is variable within <i>loti</i>; females may not be identifiable.</p> <p>Male rostrum slightly wider and shorter than in female, difference more marked than in <i>loti</i>.</p> <p>Female rostrum slightly narrower than either sex of <i>loti</i>.</p> <p>On Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>. Frequent.</p> <p>Compare See compare list for Blackish <i>Ischnopterapion</i> (above).</p> <p>sēnīcūlus = little old man</p> 



Pirapion and Protopirapion

On **gorse or broom**. Wing-cases **inflated like a hot air balloon**, sides and top bulging at the rear, **shoulders weak** or not apparent, **rear end blunt**. Obviously hairy, **black** or with a **faint blue sheen**. Claws have a tooth at the base. [Compare](#) No other Apionid has wing-cases so swollen and blunt at the rear, with shoulders almost missing. Those that might be confused have brighter blue wing-cases, appear hairless, have shorter and thicker rostrums, or have prominent shoulders. See especially *Melanapion minimum* (smaller; rostrum thicker and shorter; on trees) and *Ischnopterapion loti* and *modestum*.

Pirapion = pear Apion; Protopirapion = first pear Apion

<i>Pirapion immune</i>	<i>Protopirapion atratum</i>
	
2.0-2.8 mm immüne = free, having no obligation	2.2-3.1 ātratum = little black thing
The swollen, blunt wing-cases of <i>immune</i> and <i>atratum</i> are distinctive once you know them, but until you are familiar with them, you might try to convince yourself that some <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> have balloon-shape wing-cases. Check for the prominent shoulders and less closely punctured pronotum of <i>Ischnopterapion</i> . Male first segment of feet with a small spur on underside. Female has no spur on feet. Rostrum slightly longer. On Broom <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> , sometimes on gorse. <i>Ulex</i> . Frequent.	Like <i>immune</i> , but has unpunctured band at rear of head, and longer groove up middle of pronotum (this can be difficult to see among the punctures). Male and female similar. Neither sex has a spur on the feet. On Broom <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> , sometimes on gorse. <i>Ulex</i> . Frequent.



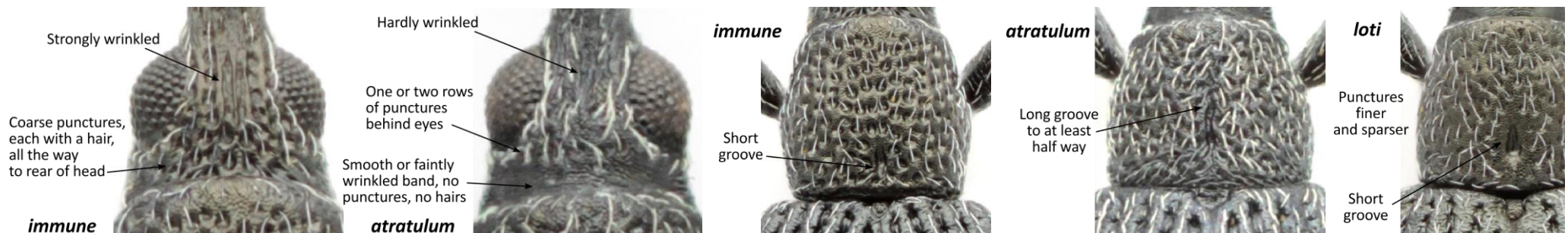
↑ *Pirapion immune*



↑ *Protopirapion atratum*

The pattern of punctures on the rear of the head will separate the balloon-shape *Pirapion* and *Protopirapion* from each other. *Ischnopterapion loti* and *modestum* have less swollen abdomens and more prominent shoulders, but beware of variation within each species: length/width of wing-cases of *loti* can be 1.32, overlapping with *atratum* (can be 1.38). *Ischnopterapion loti/modestum* have finer punctures on the pronotum than *Protopirapion* and *Pirapion*, and this will help in difficult cases.

The swollen, balloon-shape abdomen of both species is apparent in the field. Note the shining band at the rear of the head of *atratum*.



Betulapion simile

1.8-2.4 mm

símilē = likeness, similar to

Eye-beard. Hair-scales above mid and front legs thicker than those on wing-cases and femurs.. Wing-cases **blackish**, sometimes with a **faint brassy reflection**. Pronotum slightly wider than long. Antennae at $\frac{1}{2}$. Claws have a tooth at the base.

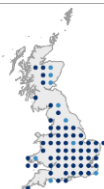
A black **obviously hairy** Apionid on birch is likely to be this species, but almost any Apionid can appear in trees, so check for the **eye-beard**.

Male rostrum shorter than in female. Spur at the tip of the mid and hind tibiae.

Female rostrum usually longer. No spurs at tips of mid and hind tibiae.

On birches *Betula*. **Common**.

Compare *Eutrichapion ervi* and *vorax* (eyes and legs longer; at least first two antenna segments clear yellow). *Holotrichapion ononis* (eyes longer; wing-cases more densely hairy; antennae at $\frac{1}{2}$ or further forward; rostrum with erect hairs). Other black-legged Apionids (no eye-beard; any of these will rule out *Betulapion simile*: underside not thickly hair-scaled; wing-cases blue; wing-cases much longer and narrower; pronotum longer than wide).

*Melanapion minimum***

1.7-2.2 mm

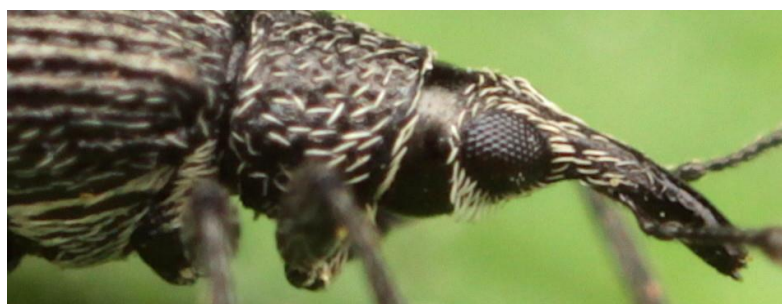
minimum = very small

A **small, black** Apionid found on **willows**. **Rostrum rather thick, short to medium, curved, antennae at $\frac{1}{2}$. Striae deep and wide**, about as wide as the intervals. Appears hairless or with only short, fine hairs at $\times 10$. Claws have a tooth at the base.

Male rostrum shorter than in female.

The only Apionid that feeds on **willows and sallows** *Salix*. **Rare**.

Compare *Squamapion* and *Catapion* (more obviously hairy; striae narrower; rostrum not so thick). *Perapion curtirostre* (more obviously hairy; rostrum straighter; striae narrower; claws without a tooth at the base; scutellum larger, much wider than a stria). *Pirapion* and *Protopirapion* (rostrums thinner and longer; wing-cases more rounded and swollen at rear; usually larger). Other black Apionids (narrower striae; often more obviously hairy; rostrums usually longer; antennae often inserted further forward).





←The eye-beard of *Betulapion simile* is formed by a fringe of longer hair-scales along the rear edge of the eye. Note too the thicker scales above the mid legs.



←The striae of *Melanapion minimum* are wide and deep, with large beads.

→The striae and the thick but curved rostrum are good field characters.



<i>Protapion filiostre</i> *	<i>Synapion ebeninum</i>
	
1.5-2.0 mm The only black-legged Protapion . Wing-cases black, rounded at sides and on top, appearing hairless at $\times 10$. Rostrum long, neither thick nor thin, antennae at $\frac{1}{4}$. Typical <i>Protapion</i> shape and texture: long rostrum, rounded wing-cases, and very fine, short hairs. Claws have a tooth at the base. Male rostrum shorter than in female. On medicks <i>Medicago</i> . Frequent. Compare <i>Synapion ebeninum</i> (pronotum longer and smoother; scutellum tiny). <i>Cyanapion afer</i> (larger; obviously hairy; first antenna segment longer, half yellow; pronotum punctures larger; antenna sockets extend forwards in front of antenna bases). <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (obviously hairy; wing-cases usually more lead-colour or faintly bluish, not so black; top of wing-cases flatter in side view). Other black apparently hairless Apionids have thicker rostrums with antennae inserted further back.	2.2-2.8 mm Black. Pronotum longer than wide, narrow, sides straight in rear half, tight like a corset , punctures very shallow, appearing rather smooth . Rostrum medium but rather thick, antennae rather thick, at $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$. Scutellum tiny , hardly visible. Shoulders hardly apparent. Claws have a tooth at the base. Male rostrum shorter than in female. On bird's-foot-trefoils <i>Lotus</i> . Frequent. Compare Other black Apionids (pronotums shorter or not so narrow and straight in rear half; pronotum punctures usually deeper and coarser; often obviously hairy; scutellums larger).



← *Protapion filiostre* has rather rounded wing-cases in side view.



← *Synapion ebeninum* has a distinctive pronotum, longer than wide, with straight narrow sides in the rear half. The tiny scutellum is barely visible.





↑ The shiny black appearance and long pronotum are good field characters of *Synapion ebeninum*.

Cyanapion afer and gyllenhali

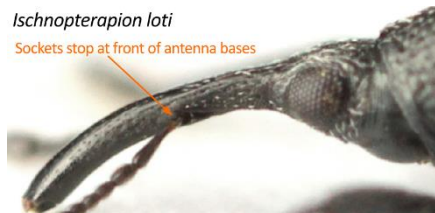
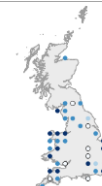
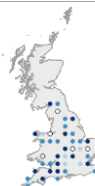
Cyanapion = blue Apion

Rostrums long but rather broad. Claws have a tooth at the base. *Cyanapion* have an extended **antenna socket**, **continuing forwards** beyond the base of the antenna. Apart from this feature the three British and Irish species are not so alike, and the genus is not a useful concept for species identification. *Cyanapion spencii*, the third species of the genus, is very different. It is included on page 66.

<i>Cyanapion afer</i> *	<i>Cyanapion gyllenhali</i> *
	
<p>2.0-2.5 mm</p> <p>Wing-cases blackish. Rostrum long, antennae at $\frac{1}{2}$. Wing-cases hairy at $\times 10$. First antenna segment half yellow, second and third segments brown.</p> <p>Male rostrum wide and flattened, shorter than in female.</p> <p>Female rostrum longer and narrower than in male. Rostrum hairy throughout, the hairs recurved, sometimes slightly raised and bristly near the tip.</p> <p>On Meadow Vetchling <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>. Uncommon.</p> <p>Compare male <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (rostrums narrower, less arched; first antenna segment slightly shorter, dark apart from extreme base; antenna sockets not extending forwards). <i>Cyanapion gyllenhali</i> (eyes longer, head longer, narrower, not much wider than rostrum). Other black Apionids have narrower, less flat-looking rostrums.</p> <p>Compare female <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (rostrums narrower, less arched, less densely punctured, hardly hairy; first antenna segment shorter, dark apart from extreme base; rest of antenna segments darker). <i>Holotrichapion aethiops</i> (wing-cases blue; eyes longer). <i>Pirapion</i> and <i>Protopirapion</i> (hairs thicker; antennae darker; wing-cases more rounded at rear, shoulders hardly apparent). <i>Hemitrichapion reflexum</i> (wing-cases blue; rostrum shorter; first antenna segment yellow only at extreme base). <i>Holotrichapion aethiops</i> (wing-cases blue; head narrower, eyes closer together; first antenna segment shorter, yellow only at extreme base). <i>Protapion filiostre</i> (smaller; apparently hairless; first antenna segment shorter, dark apart from extreme base; pronotum punctures smaller).</p>	<p>2.3-2.9 mm</p> <p>Wing-cases blackish. Rostrum medium to long and wide, appears strangely flattened, antennae at $\frac{1}{2}$. Wing-cases hairy at $\times 10$. First antenna segment half yellow, second and third segments brown. Head long and narrow, head between eyes is hardly wider than rostrum, gradually tapered from rear of head to front of eyes.</p> <p>Male rostrum wider and shorter than in female.</p> <p>Female narrower and longer than in male, but still strangely wider and flatter than black Apionids in other genera. Eyes longer, almost flat.</p> <p>On vetches <i>Vicia</i>. Uncommon.</p> <p>Compare male <i>Cyanapion afer</i> (eyes shorter, head wider). Other black Apionids have rostrums narrower and less flat-looking, and eyes usually more rounded.</p> <p>Compare female Other black Apionids have rostrums narrower and less flat-looking, heads proportionately wider, and eyes more rounded. <i>Holotrichapion aethiops</i> (wing-cases blue; rostrum narrower after antenna bases; hairs on wing-cases finer, only faintly visible at $\times 10$; eyes and head not so long).</p>

āfer = African

gyllenhali, after Leonard Gyllenhal, Swedish entomologist



←The antenna sockets of *Cyanapion* extend forward beyond the front edge of the antenna bases; those of similar Apionids stop at the front of the antenna bases. This can be a difficult feature to see, but it is not needed to identify *Cyanapion*, because each *Cyanapion* species has other characters that identify it.



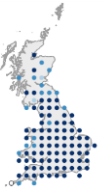
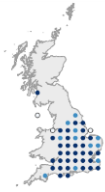
→The first antenna segment of *Cyanapion afer* is half yellow. This is a surprisingly useful feature, and helps separate it from *Ischnopterapion*, *Hemitrichapion*, and other similar species.



Eutrichapion ervi and vorax

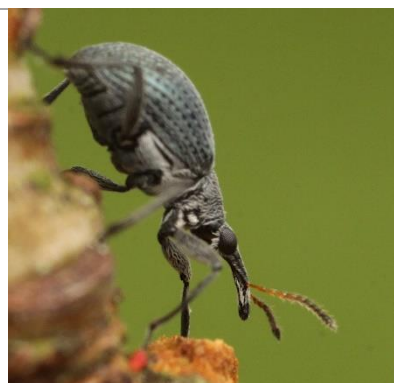
Eutrichapion = true hairy Apion

Two **obviously hairy** species with an **eye-beard**. Rather **large, rounded eyes contrast with a long, narrow, needle-like rostrum**. **Antennae yellow at base** or all yellow, at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$. Underside with white scales thicker than upperside, especially above front and mid legs, but these are often wear off or may be rather sparse. Claws have a tooth at the base. [Compare](#) The needle-like rostrum behind the rather large rounded eyes is distinctive once you are familiar with it, but see also *Ischnopterapion*, *Pirapion*, and *Protopirapion* (antennae darker; no eye-beard; no white patches on underside). *Betulapion simile* (antennae darker; legs shorter; eyes shorter).

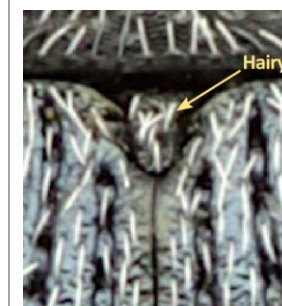
<i>Eutrichapion ervi</i>	<i>Eutrichapion vorax</i>
	
<p>2.0-2.5 mm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ervi = of bitter-vetch <i>Ervum</i></p>	<p>2.3-2.9 mm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">vōrax = voracious</p>
<p>Wing-cases blackish. Wing-cases wider at rear, fatter than in <i>vorax</i>.</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter and wider than in female. Antennae all yellow, including club.</p> <p>Female rostrum longer and narrower than in male. Antennae yellow at base, gradually darkened to tip, club blackish.</p> <p>On Meadow Vetchling <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>. Common.</p> <p>Compare male <i>Oxystoma craccae</i> is the only other blackish or metallic Apionid with all-yellow antennae. <i>Eutrichapion vorax</i> (club blackish; wing-cases longer and proportionately narrower, blue or bluish).</p> <p>Compare female <i>Eutrichapion vorax</i> (wing-cases longer and proportionately narrower, blue or bluish; pronotum sides flaring out at middle, groove down centre very short or absent; scutellum hairy).</p> 	<p>Wing-cases blue or bluish, rather long and narrow, but shoulders square and prominent. Scutellum hairy (usually with more than three hairs).</p> <p>Male rostrum wider and shorter than in female.</p> <p>On vetches <i>Vicia</i>. Infrequent.</p> <p>Compare <i>Eutrichapion ervi</i> (wing-cases shorter and proportionately wider, blackish; pronotum sides straighter, not so flaring, groove down centre longer than half of pronotum; scutellum not hairy or with only one or two hairs).</p> 





←The all-yellow antennae of male *Eutrichapion ervi* are a good field mark. The thick white scaling on the underside is also just visible here.

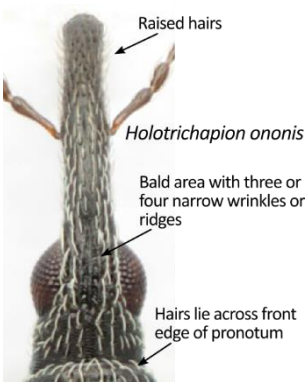
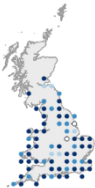


←The scales on the underside of *Eutrichapion vorax* and *ervi* are thicker than those on the upperside, and they sometimes form white patches, especially in *vorax*. Note the eye-beard formed of extra-long scales along the rear edge of the eye.



Eutrichapion vorax has a hairy scutellum.




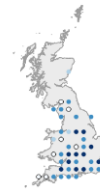
Holotrichapion ononis	Hemitrichapion waltoni*
	
1.7-2.4 mm Rostrum bristly hairy throughout, the hairs raised and often slightly curly. The raised hairs are a unique feature among our Apionids, but they might not be easy to see: they are most obvious at the sides of the rostrum in front of the antenna bases. Hairs thick, so wing-cases often look greyish. Pronotum with shallow central groove down almost the whole length (reaching just short of reaching front edge). Hairs lie across the front edge of the pronotum (as in narrow Squamapion). Eyes long, longer than width of rostrum. Wing-cases blackish. Three or four long, bare wrinkles between eyes. Claws have a tooth at the base. Male rostrum shorter and thicker than in female. On rest-harrows Ononis. Frequent. Compare Cyanapion afer (rostrum hairs recurved, not bristly except sometimes at tip; rostrum shorter when comparing same sex; hairs finer; antenna sockets extending forward of antenna bases). No other Apionid has rostrum hairs so raised. Even if these are not clear, look for combination of long eyes, thick hairs on upperside, long rostrum with antennae at ½ or beyond, blackish wing-cases, long bald wrinkles between eyes, and pronotum groove almost as long as pronotum.	1.9-2.3 mm Wing-cases and pronotum usually glaucous-blue. Pronotum less colourful than the wing-cases, may appear black on cursory glance, but usually at least faintly blue, although rarely the wing-cases and pronotum are blackish with only a faint metallic hue. Hairs thick, those on front edge of pronotum lying across the edge. Rostrum medium length, not as short and thick as Perapion, but not as long as Ischnopterapion. Claws have a tooth at the base. Male rostrum shorter than in female. On Horseshoe Vetch Hippocrepis comosa. Frequent in chalk grassland, but not easy to find without grubbing or using a vacuum sampler. Compare Ischnopterapion loti and modestum (rostrums longer; pronotums black; hairs lying along front edge of pronotum). Hemitrichapion reflexum (wing-cases bluer; groove down pronotum deeper; rostrum longer when comparing same sex; antennae inserted slightly further forward; hairs lying along front edge of pronotum). Perapion and Pseudoperapion (rostrums slightly thicker; upperside not so hairy; eyes smaller; claws without a tooth). Catapion seniculus (black; wing-cases narrower, shoulders hardly apparent; usually smaller). Ischnopterapion virens (rostrum longer; eyes more bulging; hairs finer; pronotum more sparsely punctured).



↑The raised hairs on the rostrum are just about visible in the field, but if they are not, the long eyes, thick hairs, and rostrum hairy to the tip are good clues to *Holotrichapion ononis*.

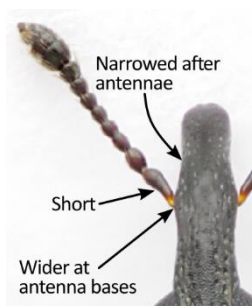


↑*Hemitrichapion waltoni* usually appears dull blue in the field. As in *Holotrichapion ononis*, hairs lie across the front edge of the pronotum, but this is even more pronounced in *waltoni*. *Squamapion* and *Kalcapion* also have hairs lying across the front edge of the pronotum.

<i>Hemitrichapion reflexum</i> **	<i>Eutrichapion punctiger</i> *
 <p>1.7-2.4 mm</p> <p>Wing-cases blue, pronotum blackish. Hairs thick. Rostrum medium to long, antennae at about ½. Short deep groove down rear half of pronotum. Claws have a tooth at the base.</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter than in female.</p> <p>On Sainfoin <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>. Rare.</p> <p>Compare <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (wing-cases blackish, at most with very faint metallic blue hue; hairs slightly longer; rostrum slightly narrower, especially at base). <i>Hemitrichapion waltoni</i> (wing-cases duller; groove down pronotum shallow; rostrum shorter when comparing same sex; antennae inserted slightly further back; hairs lying across front edge of pronotum). <i>Ischnopterapion virens</i> (pronotum metallic, usually greenish; eyes more bulging). <i>Cyanapion afer</i> (wing-cases blackish; rostrum hairy throughout; pronotum not so wide; first antenna segment at least half yellow; antenna sockets extend forwards in front of antenna bases). <i>Holotrichapion aethiops</i> (head narrow, eyes closer together; hairs shorter and finer; no groove down rear half of pronotum).</p> 	 <p>2.2-3.2 mm</p> <p>Wing-cases shining blue, appearing hairless at x10. Pronotum less colourful than the wing-cases, but still metallic blue. Hairs on wing-cases very fine and short, not overlapping. Pronotum shallowly and sparsely punctured, looking smoother than most Apionids, narrowed in front third. Rostrum medium to long, slightly narrowed before and after antenna bases, antennae at about ½. Claws have a tooth at the base.</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter than in female, dull throughout.</p> <p>Female rostrum longer than in male, narrower and rather smooth beyond antenna bases.</p> <p>On vetches <i>Vicia</i>. Uncommon.</p> <p>Compare <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (wing-cases blackish; hairs thicker, rostrums not so narrowed; pronotum punctures larger and deeper). <i>Hemitrichapion reflexum</i> (hairs thicker; pronotum blackish, punctures larger and deeper). <i>Ischnopterapion virens</i> (obviously hairy; rostrum with sides straighter). <i>Pseudoprotapion astragali</i> (brighter; pronotum punctures larger and deeper; deep groove down rear of middle of pronotum). <i>Holotrichapion pisi</i> (rostrum sides straighter; punctures deeper and stronger; pronotum black). Other metallic Apionids have blackish pronotums, many are obviously hairy.</p> 



← *Hemitrichapion reflexum* has a short but deep groove down the rear half of the pronotum. Apart from the blue wing-cases, this species is difficult to tell apart from *Ischnopterapion loti* and *modestum*. On average, *reflexum* has a slightly wider pronotum, slightly flatter eyes, slightly broader rostrum, and slightly shorter wing-cases, but the variation within *loti* means that none of these characters on its own is diagnostic.



↑ Rostrum of *Eutrichapion punctiger* is slightly narrowed after the antennae. The first antennal segment is shorter than the width of the rostrum.



← The hairs of *Eutrichapion punctiger* are very short and fine, and not overlapping.



→ The sides of the front half of the pronotum of *Eutrichapion punctiger* are angled inwards. Note the shallow, widely spaced punctures, and very short hairs.



Blue *Holotrichapion*

Two **blue** species. **Heads** rather **cone-shape**. **Rostrums** medium to **long**. Claws have a tooth at the base.

Holotrichapion = wholly hairy *Apion* (which these two are not)

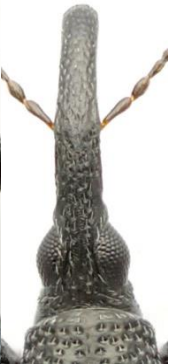
<i>Holotrichapion pisi</i>	<i>Holotrichapion aethiops</i>
	
2.2-2.9 mm Wing-cases bright blue , hairs fine and dark, appearing hairless at ×10, rear end blunt and wide. Eyes rounded , almost spherical. Pronotum wider than long, black . Rostrum medium to long, antennae at ½ to ¾. Male rostrum shorter than in female, antennae inserted further forward. On medicks <i>Medicago</i> . Common. Compare <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (wing-cases blackish, at most very slightly blue, obviously hairy, narrower, more pointed at rear; eyes less rounded). <i>Ischnopterapion virens</i> (obviously hairy; wing-cases narrower, more pointed at rear; pronotum metallic, narrower). <i>Cyanapion after</i> and <i>gyllenhali</i> (blackish; rostrums wider; eyes longer and flatter). <i>Holotrichapion aethiops</i> (duller blue; obviously hairy; eyes longer and flatter; head less strongly punctured). <i>Hemitrichapion reflexum</i> (obviously hairy; eyes longer and less rounded). <i>Eutrichapion punctiger</i> (pronotum smoother, finely punctured; rostrum sides narrowed before and after antennae; pronotum slightly green or blue). <i>Cyanapion spencii</i> (head caved in between eyes; shortly but obviously hairy; eyes longer, not so rounded). Other colourful Apionids (wing-cases and pronotums proportionately narrower; often obviously hairy; antennae often inserted further back).	1.9-2.7 mm Wing-cases blue or bluish , hairs short and fine , just visible at ×10. Eyes long , rather flat and close together (less than the length of an eye apart). Pronotum black, more or less as long as wide. Rostrum medium to long, antennae at about ½. Pronotum without a groove or pit down the middle. Male rostrum wider and shorter than in female. On vetches <i>Vicia</i> . Frequent. Compare <i>Holotrichapion pisi</i> (brighter blue; appears hairless; eyes shorter and more rounded; punctures stronger). <i>Cyanapion afer</i> (wing-cases blackish; eyes further apart; first antenna segment longer, half yellow; antenna sockets extend forwards in front of antenna bases). <i>Cyanapion gyllenhali</i> (eyes even longer and flatter; rostrum wider; hairs thicker; first antenna segment longer; antenna sockets extend forwards in front of antenna bases). <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (wing-cases blackish; hairs thicker and longer; eyes further apart). <i>Ischnopterapion virens</i> (hairs thicker; pronotum metallic greenish; eyes more bulging). <i>Hemitrichapion reflexum</i> (head wider, eyes further apart; hairs thicker; groove down rear half of pronotum). <i>Eutrichapion punctiger</i> (pronotum smoother, finely punctured; rostrum sides narrowed before and after antennae; wing-cases appear hairless at ×10; pronotum slightly green or blue).



←*Holotrichapion pisi* has a wide-eyed expression: the eyes are short but very round, almost globular. Note also the deep and wide punctures on the head and pronotum. There is a short groove or pit in the rear half of the pronotum. Wing-cases appear hairless, but at high magnification there are short dark hairs, much harder to see than the pale hairs of other blue species.





↑Wide, bright blue rear, wide pronotum, and small eyes help identify *Holotrichapion pisi* in the field.



←*Holotrichapion aethiops* has no groove or pit down the pronotum. The hairs are short and fine, but they are pale, and just visible at ×10. The head is rather cone-shape.

→*Ischnopterapion loti* is blackish rather than blue. If you are in doubt about the colour, look at the shape of the head. *Ischnopterapion loti* and *modestum* have eyes further apart and the rostrum is often slightly narrowed between the eyes and the antennae, so the head is less cone-shape.



<i>Ischnopterapion virens</i>	<i>Pseudoprotapion astragali</i> ***
	
1.8-2.6 mm	2.1-2.5 mm
<p>Wing-cases blue or green, head and pronotum blackish with blue or green sheen. Eyes bulging, angled sideways or slightly forwards. Hairs obvious. Rostrum medium to long, antennae at about ½. Short, deep pit in rear half of pronotum. The bulging eyes are a good field character, giving this weevil a wide-headed look unlike other similar species. Claws have a tooth at the base.</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter than in female, antennae inserted further forward.</p> <p>On clovers <i>Trifolium</i>. Common.</p> <p>Compare <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (wing-cases blackish, at most with very faint metallic blue hue; pronotum black; pronotum more densely punctured). <i>Hemitrichapion reflexum</i> (pronotum black; eyes less bulging). <i>Hemitrichapion waltoni</i> (rostrum shorter; eyes less bulging; hairs thicker; pronotum more densely punctured). <i>Pseudoprotapion astragali</i> (brighter and more colourful; hairs finer and shorter, not overlapping; pronotum wider in rear half, with groove to half way; rostrum narrowed beyond antenna sockets). <i>Eutrichapion punctiger</i> (wing-cases appear hairless; pronotum smoother, punctures sparser and finer; rostrum more narrowed before and after antenna sockets). <i>Holotrichapion pisi</i> (appears hairless; wing-cases blunter at rear; pronotum black, wider). <i>Holotrichapion aethiops</i> (hairs finer; pronotum black; eyes flatter and longer).</p>	<p>Whole weevil bright shining green or blue, one of the most colourful Apionids. Hairs on wing-cases very fine and short, not overlapping, appearing hairless at ×10. Pronotum wider at base, narrowed in front third, deep groove down rear half. Rostrum long, slightly narrowed after antenna bases, antennae at about ½ or ⅔. Claws have a tooth at the base.</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter and wider than in female.</p> <p>On Wild Liquorice <i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>. Rare.</p> <p>Compare <i>Ischnopterapion loti</i> and <i>modestum</i> (wing-cases, pronotums, and heads blackish; obviously hairy; pronotums with short pit rather than long groove in rear half). <i>Hemitrichapion reflexum</i> (head and pronotum black; wing-cases obviously hairy, duller blue). <i>Ischnopterapion virens</i> (not so bright; pronotum sides straighter, only short pit on rear; rostrum not so narrowed after antennae). <i>Eutrichapion punctiger</i> (pronotum smoother, punctures sparser and finer, no groove in rear half). <i>Omphalapion laevigatum</i> (rostrum longer; pronotum more rounded). Other metallic blue or green Apionids have blackish heads and pronotums, many are obviously hairy.</p>




←The pronotum of *Ischnopterapion virens* is usually greenish or bluish, although it may appear blackish if the lighting is not right. There is a short pit in the rear half of the pronotum. Note the long, overlapping hairs.



←The pronotum of *Pseudoprotapion astragali* is much wider at the rear than at the front, and there is a deep, long groove down the rear half. The whole weevil is more brightly coloured than *Ischnopterapion virens*, and the hairs on the upper surface are much shorter, and not overlapping.



Cyanapion spencii*	
	
1.9-2.5 mm	spencii, after William Spence, English entomologist
<p>Wing-cases blue, head and pronotum black. Head caved in between eyes. Pronotum much wider than long, with a long groove down the centre. Hairs obvious but short. Rostrum medium to long, rather wide, antennae at or in front of ½. Claws have a tooth at the base.</p> <p>Male rostrum shorter than in female, hairier.</p> <p>On vetches <i>Vicia</i>. Infrequent.</p> <p>Compare <i>Holotrichpion pisi</i> (forehead not caved in; eyes shorter; appears hairless). No other blue Apionid has depression between the eyes, and such a wide pronotum.</p>	



← *Cyanapion spencii* is the only blue Apionid with a caved in forehead. The pronotum is much wider than long, and there is long groove down the centre.

Index to species accounts

Acentrotypus brunnipes***	44
Aizobius sedi*	38
Apion cruentatum	7
Apion frumentarium	7
Apion haematodes	8
Apion rubens	8
Apion rubiginosum*	8
Aspidapion aeneum	46
Aspidapion radiolus	47
Aspidapion soror***	47
Betulapion simile	58
Catapion curtisii***	53
Catapion pubescens	52
Catapion seniculus	52
Ceratapion carduorum	45
Ceratapion gibbirostre	45
Ceratapion onopordi	46
Cyanapion afer*	60
Cyanapion gyllenhali*	60
Cyanapion spencii*	66
Diplapion confluens	48
Diplapion stolidum*	48
Eutrichapion ervi	61
Eutrichapion punctiger*	63
Eutrichapion viciae	13
Eutrichapion vorax	61
Exapion difficile**	12
Exapion fuscirostre	11
Exapion genistae***	11

Exapion ulicis	12
Helianthemapion aciculare***	43
Hemitrichapion reflexum**	63
Hemitrichapion waltoni*	62
Holotrichapion aethiops	64
Holotrichapion ononis	62
Holotrichapion pisi	64
Ischnopterapion loti	56
Ischnopterapion modestum	56
Ischnopterapion virens	65
Ixpion variegatum***	10
Kalcapion pallipes	13
Kalcapion semivittatum*	13
Malvapion malvae	10
Melanapion minimum**	58
Omphalapion beuthini***	37
Omphalapion hookerorum	37
Omphalapion laevigatum***	38
Oxystoma cerdo	36
Oxystoma craccae	36
Oxystoma pomonae	35
Oxystoma subulatum	35
Perapion affine**	41
Perapion curtirostre	42
Perapion hydrolapathi	39
Perapion lemoro***	42
Perapion marchicum	41
Perapion violaceum	39
Pirapion immune	57

Protapion apricans	24
Protapion assimile	24
Protapion diffforme*	21
Protapion dissimile*	21
Protapion filirostre*	59
Protapion fulvipes	20
Protapion laevicolle***	22
Protapion nigrirtase	20
Protapion ononidis	25
Protapion schoenherri***	22
Protapion trifolii	25
Protapion varipes**	23
Protopirapion atratulum	57
Pseudapion rufirostre	14
Pseudaplemonus limonii**	44
Pseudoperapion brevirostre***	43
Pseudoprotapion astragali***	65
Rhopalapion longirostre	14
Squamapion atomarium*	51
Squamapion cineraceum*	49
Squamapion flavimanum*	49
Squamapion vicinum*	51
Stenopterapion intermedium***	55
Stenopterapion meliloti	54
Stenopterapion scutellare*	54
Stenopterapion tenue	55
Synapion ebeninum	59
Taeniapion urticarium	10

Versions

1.01. 23 Mar 2020. Added hind foot characters for *Perapion*.

1.02. 14 May 2020. Corrected *Oxystoma craccae* caption.

1.03. 13 Sep 2020. Corrected *Catapion* antennal character.