



The Longhorn Beetles (Cerambycidae) of Beds, Cambs & Northants

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This key includes the majority of the native longhorn beetles recorded from the three counties. Those marked with * are common and widespread, and likely to be found in most woods in this area. Many species are rare or elusive. A few additional species may occasionally be imported in timber or in furniture. Most of the features given should be visible with a x10 hand lens. Once keyed out a few times, most species may be recognised in the field with the naked eye. It is useful to familiarise oneself with the appearance of species from an illustrated guide.

- 1** Pronotum with 3 or more sharp spines along each side. Antennae appearing serrated (each segment widening toward apex), especially in males. (18-)25-45mm long, a broad thickset species, black with brownish elytra. *Prionus coriarius*
- 1a** Pronotum with only one spine, or with smoothly rounded sides. Antennae not serrate. Often smaller and more slender. **2**
- 2** Elytra short, leaving at least 3 abdominal segments exposed, their upper surface covered by wing membranes which are folded along the back. **3**
- 2a** Elytra covering almost all the abdomen. When resting normally, wing membranes completely covered. **4**
- 3** Larger, 8-14mm. Elytra red-brown with a diagonal white raised band behind middle. *Molorchus minor*
- 3a** Smaller, 5-8mm. Elytra all brown, with no pale band. *Molorchus umbellatarum*
- 4** Head turned downward through 90°, so 'top' of head is more or less vertical and jaws point downwards and are not visible from above. Front tibiae with oblique grooves on their undersides. Labial palps with apical segments tapering or pointed. Legs usually rather short and stout. **5**
- 4a** Head pointing more forward, so jaws are visible from above. Front tibiae without grooves on undersides. Apical segments of palps broadened at apex. Legs often long and slender or with thickened femora. **15**
- 5** Thorax with a sharp spine on each side. **6**
- 5a** Thorax without spines, sides smoothly rounded or straight. **9**
- 6** First antennal segment with a transverse ridge just before the apex, and a flattened bump on the front of the segment at the apex. 14-32mm. Black or dark brown, with thin, inconspicuous hairs. *Lamia textor*
- 6a** Antennae without the ridge or the bump. 4-10mm. Largely covered with thick pale grey, fawn or whitish hairs. **7**
- 7** Elytra each with a few brush-like tufts of black hairs. Each elytron drawn out into a sharp spine at the apex, near the outer corner. **8**
- 7a** Elytra mottled with pale and dark grey or fawn hairs, but no black tufts. Apex of elytra smoothly rounded. *Leiopus nebulosus* *

- 8** Scutellum (triangle on midline at base of elytra) with a stripe of light hairs down middle. Elytra have a blunt tooth at apex at suture, as well as sharper point on outer apical corners. *Pogonocerus hispidulus*
- 8a** Scutellum entirely black or black-brown. Elytra rounded at apex of suture. *Pogonocerus hispidus*
- 9** Antennae distinctly dark and pale banded, each segment with dense white hairs covering the basal half or two-thirds. **10**
- 9a** Antennae uniformly black. **12**
- 10** Pronotum and head with a continuous pale yellowish line of hair down middle. Antennae with 12 segments. *Agapanthia villosoviridescens* *
- 10a** No pale midline on head and pronotum. Antennae with 11 segments. **11**
- 11** [3 choices]
- 11a** 20-30mm. Brownish, uniformly covered with yellowish or greyish pubescences and black pits. *Saperda carcharias*
- 11b** 13-18mm. Elytra with a broad band along suture, and with 6 transverse bands, marked clearly with yellow-green pubescence, contrasting with blackish background. (Mainly northern and western, not currently known from Trust area.) *Saperda scalaris*
- 11c** 9-14mm. Black, with well defined patches of yellow or yellow-green hairs on each elytron. *Saperda populnea*
- 12** 2.5-5mm. Head and thorax blackish, elytra yellow with a darker apex. Elytra parallel-sided and quite short. **13**
- 12a** 7-18mm. Elytra entirely dark, black or grey. Beetle more elongate. **14**
- 13** Side of pronotum with short dense pubescence beneath the long erect hairs. Apex of elytra sharply angled at suture but rounded on outer corner. Apical spot rather blurred. *Tetrops praeusta* *
- 13a** Sides of pronotum only with long erect hairs. Apex of elytra with both suture and outer corner sharply angled. Apical black spot well defined, its front edge convex, bulging toward the base of the elytron. *Tetrops starkii*
- 14** Thorax reddish with two small black spots, contrasting strongly with grey-black elytra and head. Legs uniformly reddish, antennae black. 15-21mm. *Oberea oculata*
- 14a** Head, thorax and elytra all dark grey. Legs black and yellow. 6-14mm. *Phytoecia cylindrica*
- 15** Coxae of front legs conical. Head with a well-marked narrow 'neck' and usually with well-rounded, swollen 'temples' behind the eyes. **16**
- 15a** Coxae of front legs spherical. Head without a narrow 'neck' nor with bulging temples. **29**
- 16** Pronotum with a sharp spine at each side. **17**
- 16a** Pronotum with smoothly rounded or straight sides. **20**
- 17** Antennae longer, reaching beyond middle of elytra. Segment 3 of antennae much longer than segment 1 (note: segment 2 is very short, and might be taken for a part of the base of segment 3). Head and thorax black, elytra orange or black. Not conspicuously patterned with thick hairs. 15-25mm. *Stenocorus meridianus* *
- 17a** Antennae much shorter. Segment 3 shorter than segment 1. Dark beetles conspicuously patterned with white or fawn-coloured thick hairs. 14-20mm. **18**

- 18** Antennae extending well beyond elytra shoulders. Most hairs on elytra fine, so elytra are shiny, usually dark grey with reddish shoulders, and two oblique yellowish or whitish bands on each elytron. 14-18mm *Rhagium bifasciatum* *
- 18a** Antennae barely reaching shoulders. Elytra with dense pale grey or fawn hairs and so mainly dull. Shoulders blackish. Oblique bands absent or less defined. **19**
- 19** Whitish-grey with black mottling. Head tapering gradually behind eyes into neck. Head with no furrow between eyes. Rare outside Scottish pine-woods. *Rhagium inquisitor*
- 19a** Yellowish-grey with black mottling. Head parallel-sided behind eyes, then rapidly contracted into narrower neck. Head with a deep furrow between eyes. Common throughout. *Rhagium mordax* *
- 20** Pronotum with hind angles right-angled or completely rounded. **21**
- 20a** Pronotum with hind angles protruding backwards and sideways as sharp spines. **22**
- 21** Small (6-9mm). Elytra shiny, yellowish-orange, contrasting with black head and thorax in both sexes. Apex of elytra rounded. *Anoplodera livida*
- 21a** Larger (12-20mm). Elytra dull, yellow in male (with black head and thorax), deep red-brown in female (with black head but reddish pronotum). Apex of elytra truncate (square-ended), and with a drawn-out point (mucronate). *Anoplodera rubra*
[*Anoplodera scutellata* would also key out here but is all black, with the scutellum covered in fine, light-coloured pubescence.]
- 22** Apex of elytra rounded. Elytra uniform black or brown. **23**
- 22a** Apex of elytra truncate (square-ended), and with a drawn-out point (mucronate). Often patterned light and dark. **26**
- 23** Antenna segment 1 shorter than segment 3. Elytra black. **24**
- 23a** Antenna segment 1 about as long as segment 3. Elytra red- or yellow-brown. *Alosterna tabacicolor* *
- 24** Small, 4-6mm. Second antennal segment obviously longer than broad. Antennae and legs largely black. Front femora with at least a blackish longitudinal streak. Very common. *Grammoptera ruficornis* *
- 24a** Larger, 6-9mm. Second antennal segment about as long as broad. Legs may be pale or dark. **25**
- 25** Elytra largely covered with dense golden hairs, apart from the tip of each elytron, which thus appears blackish. Legs yellow, front femora without dark streak. *Grammoptera ustulata*
- 25a** Elytra with sparser, grey-yellow hairs. Tibiae and femora at least largely black. *Grammoptera abdominalis*
- 26** Elytra black with 4 broad transverse yellow-orange bands. Legs and antennae entirely black. Head and thorax black. 10-18mm. *Leptura quadrifasciata*
- 26a** Never with 4 yellow bands on elytra. Legs and antennae usually partly yellow. **27**
- 27** Larger, 12-24mm (usually 15-17mm). Elytra irregularly and variably banded and patterned in black and pale yellow. Legs largely yellow with hind femora black at apex. *Leptura maculata* *
- 27a** Smaller (6-10mm). Elytra either all black or mainly red-yellow with some black toward apex and along suture. Legs largely black. **28**
- 28** Elytra black, abdomen red. 7-10mm. *Leptura nigra*
- 28a** Elytra yellow-brown (males) or reddish with a darker apex and suture (females). 6-10mm. *Leptura melanura* *

- 29** Pronotum with a sharp spine at each side. Whole upper surface metallic, green, purple or blue. Smells sweet and fragrant (Musk Beetle). 13-34mm. Mainly in riverside willows. *Aromia moschata*
- 29a** Pronotum with smoothly rounded or straight sides. Rarely metallic, and if not, pronotum pale unmetallic red or brown. **30**
- 30** Strongly patterned with white, yellow or grey hairs, or with sharp contrast between head, pronotum and elytra colour. **31**
- 30a** Uniformly brown or black, with no pattern or contrast in colours. **35**
- 31** Elytra with white, yellow or red bands or patches. **32**
- 31a** Elytra uniform, contrasting with head and pronotum colours. **34**
- 32** Beetle black with narrow bright-yellow stripes, one at front of pronotum and 3-4 across elytra. Legs and antennae red or yellow brown. 6-15mm. *Clytus arietis* *
- 32a** Black or brown with white and/or red stripes or patches. **33**
- 33** 4-6.5mm. Elytra with brown or red base and two white transverse stripes. *Phymatodes alni*
- 33a** 6-13mm. Elytra usually with reddish shoulders (rarely all black) and 3-4 white transverse bands. *Anaglyptus mysticus* *
- 34** Head and pronotum black, elytra yellow-brown. 6-18mm. *Tetropium gabrieli*
- 34a** Head and elytra metallic blue-black, thorax red or orange-brown. 6-17mm. *Phymatodes testaceus*
- 35** Eyes each almost divided into two, upper and lower, by the base of the antenna. Pronotum and head often darker than elytra. Elytra almost smooth. 6-18mm. *Tetropium gabrieli*
- 35a** Eyes slightly kidney-shaped (small indentation where antenna base attaches to head), but not divided. Uniform dark or red-brown or black. Elytra each with 2-4 distinct ridges. **36**
- 36** Eyes large, occupying about 80% of the depth of the side of the head. Facets of eyes large and coarse, easily visible with a x15 lens. 9-27mm. *Arhopalus rusticus*
- 36a** Eyes smaller, occupying about 40% of the depth of the side of the head. Facets small and fine. 8-23mm. *Asemum striatum*