

## Beetles from Shelley

The following beetle species were seen or collected on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### Shelley Whins

*Philorinum sordidum* (Stephens, 1834) The fifth Kirklees locality for the species.

*Micrambe ulicis* (Stephens, 1830)

*Coccinella septempunctata* Linnaeus, 1758 The Seven-spot Ladybird.

*Corticaria gibbosa* (Herbst, 1793)

*Anaspis frontalis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

*Anaspis maculata* (Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785)

*Agelastica alni* (Linnaeus, 1758) The seventh Kirklees locality for the species.

*Exapion ulicis* (Forster, 1771)

### The Bridle

*Sepedophilus nigripennis* (Stephens, 1832)

*Atheta fungi* (Gravenhorst, 1806)

*Atheta laticollis* (Stephens, 1832)

*Meligethes aeneus* (Fabricius, 1775)

*Meligethes atratus* (Olivier, 1790) The ninth Kirklees locality for the species.

*Epuraea aestiva* (Linnaeus, 1758)

*Epuraea melanocephala* (Marshall, 1802)

*Coccinella septempunctata* Linnaeus, 1758

*Enicmus transversus* (Olivier, 1790)

*Psylliodes chrysocephala* (Linnaeus, 1758)

*Tatianaerhynchites aequatus* (Linnaeus, 1767) The first Kirklees record for the species.

### Species accounts

*Philorinum sordidum* (Stephens, 1834) is a 2.0-3.0mm long rove beetle which is found in flowers, particularly gorse *Ulex* spp. It is widespread but locally distributed throughout the British Isles, including Yorkshire.

*Sepedophilus nigripennis* (Stephens, 1832). This small (2.5-3.0mm) fusiform yellow rove beetle is found in grass tussocks, leaf litter, moss, and the dung of horse and cow, etc. It is very common in England and Wales but apparently rare in Scotland. Although widespread in Yorkshire, it is absent from the higher ground in the west of the county.

*Atheta fungi* (Gravenhorst, 1806). This 2.4-2.8mm long rove beetle can be found in most habitat types, where it occurs in all forms of decomposing vegetable matter, dung, carrion, etc. In Yorkshire, where it is one of the commonest Aleocharinae, it has been recorded from fungi (including *Polyporus squamosus*), dung, stable refuse, all types of decomposing vegetable matter (including the litter of Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, sweet-grass *Glyceria* spp., sedge *Carex* spp. and Great Reedmace *Typha latifolia*), and carrion. It is very common and widely distributed throughout the British Isles.

*Atheta laticollis* (Stephens, 1832) is a 2.0-2.5mm long rove beetle which occurs in all types of decomposing plant material. Yorkshire specimens have been located in ground litter in Common Reed *Phragmites australis* and Great Reedmace *Typha latifolia* beds, grass piles, stable refuse, tide line debris, pitfall traps and the fungus *Pleurotus ostreatus*. It is widely distributed throughout the British Isles, including Yorkshire.

*Micrambe ulicis* (Stephens, 1830). This 1.7-2.0mm long beetle is usually found in association with gorse *Ulex* spp. and Broom *Cytisus scoparius*, where the adults are often found in large numbers in the flowers. It is common and widely distributed throughout the British Isles, including Yorkshire.

*Meligethes aeneus* (Fabricius, 1775). This 1.9-2.7mm long greenish pollen beetle is the commonest member of the genus. It feeds on a very wide variety of flowers from spring to late autumn and is particularly fond of yellow species. There is some dispute as to whether it is a pest or major pollinator of Oilseed Rape *Brassica napus*. It is very common throughout the British Isles, including Yorkshire.

*Meligethes atratus* (Olivier, 1790). At 2.4-3.8mm long this is one of Britain's largest pollen beetles. It occurs in woodland margins, hedgerows, rough grassy areas, etc and the larvae develop in Dog-rose *Rosa canina*, and other *Rosa* species. It is widely distributed in England and Wales but very localised in Scotland. Although widespread and fairly common in Yorkshire there are no records from the north and west.

*Epuraea aestiva* (Linnaeus, 1758). The adults of this 2.0-3.0mm long reddish beetle occur on blossoms on trees and shrubs, at sap runs and in fungi. The larval ecology is apparently unknown, although it has been found in bumble bee (*Aculeate Hymenoptera*) nests. It is common and widely distributed throughout most of the British Isles, including Yorkshire.

*Eपुरaea melanocephala* (Marshall, 1802) is a 2.5mm long variable coloured pollen beetle, it is reddish-brown to black or bi-coloured red and black and is usually found on flowers in spring. The species is widespread and common throughout the British Isles, including Yorkshire.

*Coccinella septempunctata* Linnaeus, 1758. At 6.0-8.0mm in length this red ladybird with seven black spots is well known to the majority of people. Unlike most of its congeners, the elytral patterning varies little. It feeds on aphids (Homoptera) and is ubiquitous throughout the British Isles, including Yorkshire, where it is found in most habitat types. There are occasional vast immigrations from the Continent.

*Enicmus transversus* (Olivier, 1790) is a 1.7-2.0mm long mould beetle which occurs in vegetable refuse and other rotting organic material. It is common and widespread in England (including Yorkshire) and Wales but very localised in Scotland.

*Corticaria gibbosa* (Herbst, 1793). This 1.0-1.7mm long brown plaster beetle is found in leaf and grass litter, moss, fungi, etc, but it can also be found on flowers, particularly hawthorn *Crataegus* spp. It is very common in most habitats throughout England and Wales but appears to be much rarer in Scotland.

*Anaspis frontalis* (Linnaeus, 1758). At 2.9-4.4mm in length this is the largest member of the genus. The all black adults occur on flowers, especially hawthorn *Crataegus* spp., but the larvae develop in dead wood, probably twigs. It is very common and widely distributed throughout the British Isles, including Yorkshire.

*Anaspis maculata* (Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785). This small (2.4-3.1mm) tumbling flower beetle is yellowish in colour with a variable number of blackish markings. The larvae are lignicolous; adults occur in large numbers on blossom in early summer, generally on hawthorn *Crataegus* spp. but also on Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*. It is widely distributed in England (including Yorkshire) and Wales but very localised in southern Scotland.

*Agelastica alni* (Linnaeus, 1758). This 5.9-7.2mm long dark blue leaf beetle is oligophagous on various broad-leaved trees but is usually found on Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and Grey Alder *Alnus incana*. The species was formerly regarded as an immigrant to the British Isles, but since 2004, when it was found breeding in Cheshire, it has spread and is now found throughout most of northern England and a few southern counties. The first Yorkshire record was in May 2010. The national status was originally Provisional Red Data Book (pRDB) but it has recently been downgraded to Nationally Rare and, if the spread continues this will require further assessment.

*Psylliodes chrysocephala* (Linnaeus, 1758). The Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle is a 2.8-3.6mm long flea beetle which is typically entirely metallic bluish or greenish but can occasionally be partly or entirely yellow. It feeds on Brassicaceae and can occasionally be a pest of cultivated species. The larvae mine the stems and roots of their hosts. It is widely distributed and fairly common in England (including Yorkshire) and Wales but much more localised in Scotland.

*Exapion ulicis* (Forster, 1771). This 1.9-2.5mm long seed weevil occurs on Gorse *Ulex europaeus* and probably other *Ulex* species where the larvae are found in the pods. It is very common in England (including Yorkshire) and Wales but very localised in Scotland.

*Tatianaerhynchites aequatus* (Linnaeus, 1767) is a metallic bronze and bright red primitive weevil which is found on rosaceous shrubs - hawthorn *Crataegus* spp., Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, apple *Malus* spp. and Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*. The larvae develop in the fruits and have been reported as minor pest in orchards. It is common in southern England, but very rare in the north, and does not extend to Scotland. In Yorkshire it has been recorded from 44 widely distributed localities.

Mike Denton