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Rove beetles.

Synonyms and other taxonomic changes
Includes members of former families Brathiniidae, Dasycuridae, Empelidae, Micropeplidae, Oxytelidae, Oxyporidae, Pselaphidae, Scaphidiidae, and Scydmaenidae.
massive changes in higher taxonomy introduced in (1) but not yet implemented in the guide
Numbers
The largest animal family in our area, with ca. 4,400 described (+ numerous undescribed) spp. in 540 genera of 26 subfamilies(2)(3); current estimates for our area are 5,050–5,250 (M.K. Thayer, pers.comm. to =vs=, 15.viii.2011).
World’s largest animal family (although Ichneumonidae may be even larger, with 60,000 spp.), with ~56,000 spp. in 3500 genera(4)
Overview of our fauna taxa not yet in the guide:
(*) native; (+) non-native.
NB: classification substantially updated since (2)
Family STAPHYLINIDAE
Subfamily Omaliinae
Tribe Omalini
Acriulopsis · Acrolocha · Carcinoccephalus · Dropephylla · Hapalaraea · Hapalaraea · Micralymma · *Omalopsis · Omalium · *Omalonomus · *Paraphloeostiba · Phloeonomus · Phloeostiba · Phylodrepa · Pycnoglypta · *Xylodromus
Tribe Eusphalerini
Eusphalerum
Tribe Anthophagini
Acidota · Amphichroum · *Anthobioides · Anthobium · *Anthophagus · Arpedium · Artochia · Brathinus · Deinopteroloma · Eucnecosum · Geodromicus · Lesteva · *Mannerheimia · Microedus · Olophrum · Omalorphanus · Orobanus · Orochares · Pelecomalium · Phlaeopterus · *Phylodrepoidea · Porrhodites · Tanyrhinus · Trigonodemus · Unamis · Xenicopoda
Tribe Coryphiini
Boreaphilus · *Coryphiomorplus · Coryphium · Ephelinus · Euedectus · *Gnathoryphium · Haida · *Holoboreaphilus · *Occhiephilus · *Pseudohaida · Subhaida
Tribe *Aphaenostemmini
*Giulianium
Subfamily Empelinae
Empelus
Subfamily Proteininae
Megarthrus · Proteinus
Subfamily Micropeplinae
Arrhenopeplus · Kalissus · Micropeplus
Subfamily Dasycurinae
Dasycurus
Subfamily Pselaphinae
Division BRACHYSCELIA
Supertribe Faronitae
Tribe Faronini
Megarafonus · Sonoma
Supertribe Euplectetae
Section Euplectomorphi
Tribe Trogastrini
Subtribe Trogastrina
Conoplectus · Euboarhexius · Oropus · Rhexidius
Subtribe Rhexina
Rhexius
Tribe Metopiasini
Rhinoscepsis
Tribe Tachyporini
Palporus · Sepedophilus · Tachyporus
Tribe Vatesini
Cilea · Coproporus
Tribe *Derops
Tribe Tachinusini
Nitidotachinus · Tachinomorphus · Tachinus
Subfamily Mycetoporidae
Bolbitobius · Bolitopunctus · Bryophacis · Bryoporus · Carphacis · Ischnosoma · Lerdithon · Mycetoporus · Neobolbitobius
Subfamily Trichophyinae
Trichophya
Subfamily Habrocerinae
Habrocerus
Subfamily Aleocharinae
Tribe Cynnusini
Gymnusa
Tribe Deinopsini
*Adinopsis · Deinopsis
Tribe Mesooporini
Anacyptus
Tribe Trichopseniini
Trichopsenus · Xenistusa
Tribe Aleocharini
Aleochara · Amarochara
Tribe Hoplandrini
Hoplandria · Microlla · Platandria · *Tinotus
Tribe Oxypodini
Subtribe Oxypodina
Calodera · Devia · Gennadota · Gnathusa · Hylota · Ilyobates · *Longipellina · *Melanalia · *Oclea · Ocyusa · *Ocyustiba · Oxypoda · *Parocalea · *Parocyusa · *Pentantota · *Rheobioma
Subtribe Dinardina
Blepharhymenus · Decusa · *Euthorax · Losiusa · Cypha · Holobus · Oligota
Tribe Myllaenini
*Bryothinus · Myllaena
Tribe Diglottini
Diglotta
Tribe Liparoccephalini
Amblopus · Dialوتا · Liparoccephalus · *Pambolopus
Tribe Autaliini
Autalia
Tribe Homalotini
Subtribe Bolitocharina
*Hongophila · Neotobia · Phymatura · Pleurotobia · Silusida · *Stictalia
Subtribe Gyrophaenina
Agaricomorpha · Eucephalus · Eumicrota · Gyrophaena · Phanerota
Subtribe Homalotina
Anomognathus · *Cephaloxynum · *Coenonia · Cypha · Homalota · Thecturota
Subtribe Leptusina
*Dianusa · *Heterota · Leptusa
Subtribe Diestotina
Diestota
Tribe Placusiini
Euvira · Placusa
Tribe Philotermini
Philoterms
Tribe Tachyusini
*Brachyusa · Dasygnypeta · Gnypeta · Paradilacra · Tachyusa · *Teliusa
Tribe Geostibini
Alcoconota · *Anaduosternum · *Asthenesita · *Crephalia · Earota · *Gaenima · Geostiba · *Micreaarota · *Ousipalia · Seeverssiella · *Tropimeneletron
Tribe Athetini
Subtribe Acrotonina
Acrotona · *Mocyta · *Strigota
Subtribe Athetina
*Adota · *Alaobia · *Anopleta · *Atheta · *Bessobia · Boreostiba · *Clusiota · Dinaraea · *Euromota · *Hydrosmecta · *Lamiota · Lioglotta · *Micratheta · Microdota · Nehemiotropia · *Tomoglossa · *Dilacra · *Phasmota · Philhygra · Stethusa · *Xenota
Subtribe Dimetrotrina
Amischa · *Anatheta · *Datomicra · *Dimetrota · *Pancota · *Pseudota · Sableta · *Synaptina
Sea shore genera
Pontomalota · Tarphiota · Thinusa
Unassigned:
*Boreophilla · Callicerus · *Charoxus · Goniusa · *Lypoglossa · Meronera · *Parameotica · *Emmelostiba · *Schistacme · *Strophogastra · Thamiaraea · Trichiusa
Tribe Crematoxenini
Beyeria · Neoeyeria · *Proeyeria
Tribe Taxicerini
Halobrecta
Tribe Falagriini
Aleocharus · *Borbopora · *Bryobiota · Cordalia · Falagria · *Falagrioma · *Falagriota · *Leptagria · Lissagria · *Myrmecocephalus · *Myrmecopora
Tribe Sceptobini
Dinardilla · Sceptobius
Tribe Lomechusini
Subtribe Lomechusina
Xenodusa
Subtribe Myrmedonina
Apalonia · Drusilla · Myrmedonota · Myrmoeicia · Tetradonia · *Trachyota · Zytras
Unassigned:
*Bothronotoxenus · Dinocoryna · *Ecitocala · Ecitonidia · Ectixenidia · Microdona · Pella · Platyusa · Xesturida
Subfamily Trigonurinae
Trigonurus
Subfamily Scaphidiinae
Tribe Cyparini
Cyparium
Tribe Scaphiini
Scaphium
Tribe Scaphidiini
Scaphidium
Tribe Scaphisomatini
Scaphisoma · Baecora · Toxidium
Subfamily Piestinae
Piestus · *Hypotelus · Siagonium
Subfamily Osorinae
Tribe Eleusiniini
Eleusis · Renardia
Tribe Thoracophorini
Clavilispinus · *Espeson · *Lispinodes · Lispinus · Nacaeus · Prolibia · Pselaphomimus · Thoracophorus
Tribe Osorini
Holotrochus · Mimogonia · Osorius
Subfamily Oxytelinae
Tribe Euphaniini
Deleaster · Mitosyum · Syntomium
Tribe Blediini
Bledius
Tribe Coprophilini
Coprophilus
Tribe Oxytelini
*Aploderus · Anotylus · Apocellus · Xaxtelus · Manda · Neoxus · Ochthephilus · Oxytelus · Platystethus · *Teropalpus · Thinobius · Thinodromus
Subfamily Oxyporinae
Oxyporus
Subfamily Megalopsidiinae
Megalopinus
Subfamily Steninae
Stenus · Dianous
Subfamily Euaesthetinae
Tribe *Nordenskioldini
*Nordenskioldia
Tribe Stictocranini
Fenderia · Stictocranius
Tribe Euaesthetini
Edaphus · Euaesthetus
Subfamily Leptotyphlinae
*Cainotyphlus · *Cainotyphlus · *Cubanotyphlus · *Heterotyphlus · *Neotyphlus · *Prototyphlus · *Telotyphlus · *Xenotyphlus
Subfamily Pseudopsinae
*Asemobius · Nanobius · Pseudopsis · Zalobius
Subfamily Paederinae
Tribe Paederini
Subtribe Lathrobina
Dacnochilus · Lathrobium · Lobrathius · *Paederopsis · Pseudolathra · Tetartoporus
Subtribe Medonina
Achenomorphus · Deroderus · Lithocharis · Medon · *Neomedon · *Ophioma · Pseudomedon · *Silbocharis · Sunius · Lithocharis · *Xenomedon
Subtribe Scopaeina
Orus · Scopaeus
Subtribe Silicina
*Acrostilicus · Eustilicus · Megastilicus · Pachystilicus · Rugilus
Subtribe Stilicopsina
Stamoderus · Stilicopsis
Subtribe Astenina
Astenus
Subtribe Echiasterina
Echiaster · Myrmecosaurus
Subtribe Cryptobiina
Biocrypta · Homaeosaurus · Lissobiops · Ochthophilum · Sphaeronomum
Subtribe Psaoleina
Paederus
Tribe Pinophilini
Subtribe Pinophilina
Araeocerus · Lathropinus · Pinophilus
Subtribe Procirrina
Palaminus
Subfamily Platyprosopinae
Platyprosopus
Subfamily Xantholininae
Tribe Diocchini
Diocbus
Tribe Othiini
Atreucus · Othius · Parothius
Tribe Xantholinini
*Crinolinus · Gauropterus · Gyrohyppus · Habrolinus · Hesperolinus · Hypnogyra · Lepitacnus · Leptacinus · Linohesperus · Lissohypnus · Lithocharodes · *Microlinus · Neohypnus · *Neoxantholinus · Nudobius · Oxybleptes · Phacophallus · Stenistoderus · Stictolinus · Thyreocephalus · Xantholinus · Xestolinus · *Zenon
Subfamily Staphylininae
Tribe Staphylinini
Subtribe Amblyopinina
Heterothops
Subtribe Quediina
Acylophorus · Anaqueidius · Beeria · Hemiquedius · Quedius
Subtribe Tanygnathina
Atanygnathus
Subtribe Staphylinina
Creophilus · Dinotheranus · Hadrotres · Ocyppus · Ontholestes · Platydracus · *Staphylinus · Tasgius · Thinopinus
Subtribe Xanthopygina
Xanthopygus
Subtribe Anisolinina
Tympanophorus
Subtribe Philonthina
Belonuchus · Bisnius · Cafius · Erichsonius · Flohria · Gabrius · Gabronthus · Hesperus · Laetulothus · Neobisnius · Philonthus · *Rabigus
Subtribe Hyptomina
Holisus
Identification
Modern online keys, gallery, etc.
(5) useful key here (Legner yyyy)
keys to larvae in (6) elytra typically short (about as long as pronotum; wings functional in most), exposing 3-6 (usually 5-6) abdominal segments, though abdomen concealed in a few, e.g. Distinguishing staphylinid from carabid larvae (per Margaret Thayer’s pers.comm. to Jim McClarin)
Carabid larvae have 5-segmented legs and often 2 claws, while staphs have 5-segmented legs and always only 1 claw nearly all carabids have the urogomphi solidly attached (not jointed) to segment 9, and at least some of the ones that do have them articulated basally have more than 2 segments, which staphs never have. Staphs almost always have the urogomphi articulated and they have only 1-2 segments; the ones with solid urogomphi are tiny and quite different in form from carabid larvae. Helpful habitus images representing most subfamilies on one plate.(7)See Also
Fairly distinctive among beetles, could be mistaken for earwigs (Dermaptera) at first glance however, brachypterous forms are found in many beetle families, e.g.:
most of them, though, are unable to conceal their hind wings under the covers completely while at rest, others lost the hind wings completely, but a few can be really hard to tell from above
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Classification
Kingdom Animalia (Animals)
Phylum Arthropoda (Arthropods)
Subphylum Hexapoda (Hexapods)
Class Insecta (Insects)
Synonyms and other taxonomic changes
arrangement of major extant taxa based on molecular data in (1)
Explanation of Names
Insecta
Linnaeus 1758
Latin
insectum, pl. insecta
“cut into, cut up” (refers to body segmentation), a literal translation of Greek entomos (ετρομοc)
Numbers ~30 extant + a dozen extinct orders, up to 1000 families, and well over a million described species in our area (US & Canada): 28 orders, over 600 families, ca. 12,500 genera, and >86,000 spp.(2)(3)
Identification
Three body parts: head ■ thorax ■ abdomen typically two pair of wings; some groups have one pair or none
See Glossary for terminology
Overview of insect orders
Habitat
aquatic marine forms conspicuously absent
Life Cycle
Hemimetabolous insects (e.g., dragonflies, mayflies, true bugs, grasshoppers) undergo gradual, or incomplete, metamorphosis. Immature stages (usually called nymphs) go through a series of molts, gradually assuming an adult form. Since the wings develop on the outside of the body, these groups are called exopterygotes. Some orders have immature stages that are aquatic. These possess specialized structures for aquatic life, such as gills, and are called naiads, or larvae. Holometabolous insects (Endopterygota or Holometabola) have a four-stage life cycle: egg, larva, pupa, and adult (imago).
Neuroptera - Antlions, Lacewings and Allies
Hymenoptera - Ants, Bees, Wasps and Sawflies
Trichoptera - Caddisflies
Lepidoptera - Butterflies and Moths
Mecoptera - Scorpionflies, Hangingflies and Allies
Strepsiptera - Twisted-winged Insects
(4) Remarks
All the winged Pterygota orders alphabetically
Print References
Stork N.E. (2018) How many species of insects and other terrestrial arthropods are there on Earth? Ann. Rev. Entomol. 63: 31–45. Full text Works Cited 3.Evolution of the InsectsDavid Grimaldi and Michael S. Engel. 2005.4.How to Know the Immature InsectsHun-Fu Chu, Laurence K Cutkomp. 1992. Wm. C. Brown Publishers.
A large family, containing more than a quarter of the British beetle species, 1122 in total on the 2012 British list. As can be expected from such a diverse group, there is considerable variety: species vary in size between 0.7 and 28mm and in shape from fusiform (almost tadpole-shaped) to very elongate and segmented. The group is characterised by short elytra, covering less than half the abdomen, and most species are similar in form to the largest and most familiar species, the Devil’s coach-horse Ocyppus olens (Muller). The family is divided into 18 subfamilies, including several which have previously been raised to family level.Omaliinae contains 71 British species, mostly brown or black beetles shorter and broader in shape than the stereotypical staphylinid, with proportionally longer wing cases. Although some species (notably Phylodrepa nigra (Gravenhorst) and Dropephylla heeri (Heer)) are known from only a few localities, many are widespread and common in a variety of habitats, including coming to light, and dung or fungi can be particularly productive. The subfamily is distinguished by the presence of a pair of ocelli on the head, level with the hind margin of the eyes.Proteininae has 11 British representatives, with long elytra and a broad shape similar to the Omaliinae (without the two ocelli characteristic of that subfamily). Common in decaying vegetable matter, rotting fungi and (in the case of Proteinus), in carrion.There are just five British species of subfamily Micropeplinae: their strongly-rigged abdomen, elytra and pronotum soon become distinctive, though at 1.5-2.5mm specimens are likely to need examination under a microscope to fully appreciate it. Found mainly in warm decaying vegetable matter such as compost heaps.Subfamily Pselaphinae are a group which is sometimes raised to family level. Containing 52 small (0.7-3.5mm) British species, many of which are rare, the Pselaphinae mainly feed on oribatid mites. Many resemble ants in general appearance, and two species (Claviger longicornis Müller and C. testaceus Prayssler) are myrmecophilous with ants of genus Lasius.Phleocharinae is represented by just one species in Europe, Phleocharis subtilissima Mannerheim. A small (1.5-2mm) cylindrical species with reddish elytra and appendages, it is covered with long pale pubescence making it relatively easy to distinguish from similar species such as the Tachyporinae (Staphylinidae). It is widespread in moss or beneath bark on trees.Subfamily Tachyporinae contains 66 2-8mm species, including some of the most distinctive staphylinids (Tachyporus spp.). All are fusiform in shape and most are shining black or brown in colour, many with bright orange sections. Common and often abundant in decaying vegetation and fungi, but also frequent in most other habitats.Trichophyinae has just one European species, the 2.5-3mm Trichophya pilicornis (Gyllenhal). Widespread but local, it can be found in decaying vegetation and moss and is particularly associated with wood chippings and sawdust in woodland. The unusual antennal structure (two dilated basal segments with the outer segments thin and threadlike) distinguish this subfamily from all others except Habrocerinae, and it can be split from the latter on pronotal form (T. pilicornis widest across the middle, Habrocerinae widest at the hind margin).There is one British member of subfamily Habrocerinae: Habrocerus capillaricornis (Gravenhorst). Similar in appearance to Trichophyinae, with the same unusual antennae, this species is slightly larger (3-3.5mm). Found mainly in leaf litter and other decaying vegetation.The subfamily of many coleopterist’s nightmares, the Aleocharinae contains 454 often very similar species. The group as a whole is characterised by having the antennae inserted on top of the head around the level of the eyes, rather than on the front or side. Frequently common whatever habitat is examined, the learning curve is long and steep. Decaying vegetation, dung, carrion and rotten fungi will produce large numbers of Aleocharines, and most areas or habitats will have characteristic species. Dissection and a reliably-identified reference collection are frequently the minimum required for progress with this group.Subfamily Scaphidiinae (family Scaphidiidae in older texts) has only five British species. All are shining black beetles between 2 and 6mm long, the commonest of which is Scaphidium quadrimaculatum Olivier, pointed-oval in shape with four red spots (two on each elytron) on a shining black background. Two species (Scaphium immaculatum (Olivier) and Scaphisoma assimile (Erichson) have not been found in Britain since 1936 and 1974 respectively and may well be extinct in the country.Piestinae contains a single British species, Siagonium quadricorne Kirby. This is a flat, 5mm long, parallel-sided beetle with dark red elytra and appendages, found under bark. The male has highly-distinctive horns outside of the mandibles where the head is produced forwards outside the prominent mandibles.Subfamily Oxytelinae has 94 shining black, brown or red British members, 2-9mm long. Broadly similar to the Omaliinae, this group also have the antennae inserted beneath the sides or front of the head but do not possess the ocelli that characterise the smaller group. Mostly found near water or in marshy places, they come to light and can be caught in moth traps. The 27 species of Bledius are interesting: their fossorial legs provide a clue as to their habit of digging shallow galleries through the clay or sand of waterside areas, where they can be detected by the spoil heaps they leave behind.Oxyporinae contains a single species, Oxyporus rufus (L.). This species is 11mm long with orange legs, large black mandibles, and bands of black and bright orange across the body lending it a distinctive appearance. Can be found relatively frequently in the gills of fungi.Formerly a family in their own right, the Scydmaeninae (ant-like stone beetles) are similar in appearance to the Pselaphinae but have longer elytra. The subfamily contains 32 small (0.7-2.2mm) species, most of which bear a passing resemblance to ants. Most live in damp habitats, particularly leaf litter, rotten wood and other decaying organic matter.Subfamily Steninae contains 75 species in Britain, most of which occur near water. 74 of the Steninae are species of the genus Stenus, and the bug-eyed, elongate appearance quickly becomes distinctive. The remaining species, Dianous coeruleuscens (Gyllenhal), is similar to Stenus but has smaller eyes, a blue or green sheen (Stenus are black) and an orange spot on each elytron.
It can be found in wet moss by waterfalls or fast-flowing streams.There are four members of Euaesthetinae on the 2012 British list. All are small (1-2mm), with a broad two-segmented antennal club borne on short antennae, barely longer than the clubbed maxillary palps. The species can be found in a range of habitats, including grass tussocks, marshland vegetation (particularly the roots of rushes) and flood debris, and are widespread but local.Pseudopsinae contains a single British species, Pseudopsis sulcata Newman. Measuring 3-4mm in length, the pronotum and elytra have distinctive ridges, similar in appearance to the Micropeplinae but with unclubbed antennae. Found mainly in decaying vegetable matter, particularly underneath hay or straw mixed with dung, the species is local but widespread.The Paederinae has 62 1-10mm British members, many of which are distinctively coloured with black and orange banding. The distinguishing character for the group is a small terminal segment of the maxillary palp, on an apically-widened penultimate segment. Widespread in most habitats, Paederinae are found particularly frequently in decaying organic matter, particularly in marshland or other riparian habitats. Some species of genus Paedrus contain toxins in the haemolymph which can cause dermatitis if the beetle is squashed against the skin.Subfamily Staphylininae contains 185 species, including the largest Staphylinids found in Britain. Some are particularly unusual, including Emus hirtus (L.), a dung-feeding bee mimic now restricted to Kent, Vellius dilatatus (Fabricius), found in hornet (Vespa crabro L.) nests, and Remus sericeus Holme, a specialist of decaying seaweed.The antennal insertion placement (on the front of the head between the bases of the large mandibles, forward of the eyes) serves to identify the subfamily, although Aleocharina has some confusion species. Decaying organic matter, particularly dung, carrion, rotten fungi, and compost heaps can be very productive, but the aggressive nature of these beetles means far more specimens may be captured than survive all the way home if potted together.