

Some distinctive beetles at light-traps

Compiled by Martin Harvey for BENHS workshop Dec 2017



***Aphodius rufipes* (a dung beetle)**

The combination of large size (9-13mm long), front of head (clypeus) very rounded and plain dark colours (legs often reddish) distinguishes this very frequent light-trap visitor from other dung beetles



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Other *Aphodius* dung beetles

Aphodius rufipes is by far the most nocturnally active of this genus, but the smaller species do turn up occasionally. *Aphodius rufus* is the one I see most after *A. rufipes*, and then I have just one or two records for *A. prodromus*, *A. granarius*, *A. ictericus* and *A. sticticus*. These require careful keying to identify, see the [key from the DUMP project](#).

Click beetles (family Elateridae)

There are two fairly large click beetles that I often see in light-traps, plus a number of smaller ones that occur occasionally.

Melanotus villosus* OR *castanipes

Usually uniform black, narrow body shape, 11-20mm long, slightly serrated antennae. The two species are hard to tell apart and may require dissection.



Stenagostus rhombeus

Large, greyish-brown, length 16-18mm, with a subtle but distinctive cross-band of darker hairs towards the tip the elytra



For further information and to identify click beetles to species level see [Mark Telfer's web page on this group](#).

Ground beetles (family Carabidae)

A number of ground beetles come to light-traps, but identification usually requires keying under a microscope (see [Mark Telfer's web page on this group](#)). The two species shown are the ones I find most often.

Bradycellus villosus

Strongly attracted to light, much more so than the other species in this genus, but the other species do sometimes occur so it is difficult to be certain without examining a specimen under the microscope. Small, 4-5mm long.



Harpalus rufipes

Length 11-16mm, head almost bare, elytra covered in hairs



The hairs are easier to see in side-on view



Two distinctive species

***Lagria hirta* (family Tenebrionidae), a darkling beetle**

Distinctive hairy beetle with rather soft elytra, 7-9mm long.



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***Oedemera femorata* (family Oedemeridae)**

Long, narrow species, formerly scarce species but becoming more frequent. Length 12-17mm (this is a male, females have thinner hind femora)



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