

# Family Apionidae

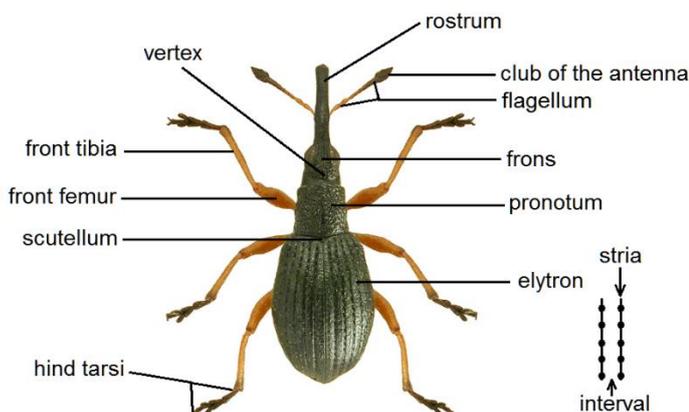
## References

The source of this translation can be found at <http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/apioninae.htm>. These German keys are derived from earlier work by Behne, Alonso-Zarazaga and Reitter. Translated by Mike Hackston and reproduced here with the kind permission of Dr Arved Lompe.

Morris (1992) Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects Volume 5, part 16 is still available in print from the Royal Entomological Society website. This contains a wealth of extra information about the species in the family.

## Checklist of genera

From the Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, 2012 edition, edited by A. G. Duff. Now updated and available [here](#).



Tribe APIONINI Schönherr, 1823 Genus <i>Apion</i> Herbst, 1797	Tribe MALVAPIINI Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990 Genus <i>Malvapion</i> Hoffmann, Adolfe, 1958 Genus <i>Pseudapion</i> Schilsky, 1906 Genus <i>Rhopalapion</i> Schilsky, 1906
Tribe APLEMONINI Kissinger, 1968 Genus <i>Aizobius</i> Alonso-Zarazaga, 1991 Genus <i>Helianthemapion</i> Wagner, 1930 Genus <i>Perapion</i> Wagner, 1907 Genus <i>Pseudaplemonus</i> Wagner, 1930 Genus <i>Pseudoperapion</i> Wagner, 1930	Tribe OXYSTOMATINI Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990 Genus <i>Cyanapion</i> Bokor, 1923 Genus <i>Eutrichapion</i> Reitter, 1916 Genus <i>Hemitrichapion</i> Voss, 1959 Genus <i>Holotrichapion</i> Györfy, 1956 Genus <i>Oxystoma</i> Duméril, 1806 Genus <i>Pirapion</i> Reitter, 1916 Genus <i>Catapion</i> Schilsky, 1906 Genus <i>Ischnopterapion</i> Bokor, 1923 Genus <i>Protopirapion</i> Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990 Genus <i>Stenopterapion</i> Bokor, 1923 Genus <i>Synapion</i> Schilsky, 1902 Genus <i>Betulapion</i> Ehret, 1994
Tribe ASPIDAPIINI Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990 Genus <i>Aspidapion</i> Schilsky, 1901	Tribe PIEZOTRACHELINI Voss, 1959 Genus <i>Protapion</i> Schilsky, 1908 Genus <i>Pseudoprotapion</i> Ehret, 1990
Tribe CERATAPIINI Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990 Genus <i>Acentrotypus</i> Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990 Genus <i>Ceratapion</i> Schilsky, 1901 Genus <i>Diplapion</i> Reitter, 1916 Genus <i>Omphalapion</i> Schilsky, 1901	
Tribe EXAPIINI Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990 Genus <i>Exapion</i> Bedel, 1887	
Tribe IXAPIINI Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990 Genus <i>Ixapion</i> Roudier & Tempère, 1973	
Tribe KALCAPIINI Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990 Genus <i>Kalcapion</i> Schilsky, 1906 Genus <i>Melanapion</i> Wagner, 1930 Genus <i>Squamapion</i> Bokor, 1923 Genus <i>Taeniapion</i> Schilsky, 1906	

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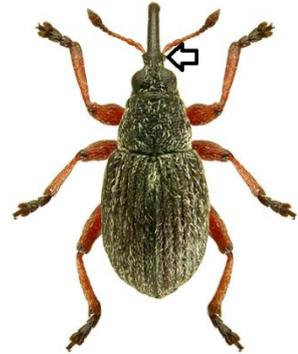
# Family Apionidae

## Key to British genera

- 1 Base of the rostrum with a tooth at the sides where the antennae are inserted (often downwardly-directed) or with a rounded thickening. Upper surface covered with dense, pale uniform hairs or scales. Legs completely red or with at least the front tibiae and femora red. ....

..... Genus *Exapion*

Four species, associated with woody leguminous shrubs of genera *Genista*, *Cytisus* and *Ulex*.



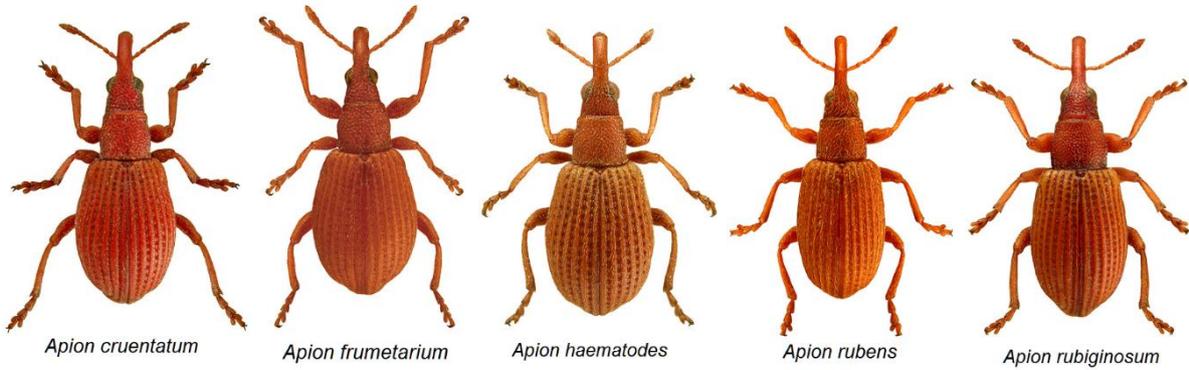
- Base of the rostrum without such a tooth or thickening (or if present then the upper surface has inconspicuous hairs and the legs are black. ....2



2 Body completely orange- to reddish-brown. Upper surface with inconspicuous hairs. ....

..... **Genus *Apion***

5 species, associated with *Rumex* species. *A. frumetarium* is easily identified by size alone being over 3.6 mm, measured from the tip of the elytra to the base of the rostrum - i.e. level with front of eyes. Others are less than 3.3 mm.



Body otherwise coloured. ....3



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- 3 All femora and tibiae (and sometimes also the tarsi) yellowish red or yellowish.  
Upper surface very distinctly hairy. ....4  
The middle and hind femora may be darker

Femora and tibiae black or only partly yellowish (in doubtful cases the upper  
surface is bare). .....[9](#)



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- 4 Head, pronotum and a triangular patch on the basal half of the elytra black. Antennae, legs and rest of elytra yellowish-red. ....

..... ***Malvapion malvae***

Associated with mallow species. Locally abundant in southern and central England.



Pronotum and elytra otherwise coloured. ....5



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- 5 Elytra shortly oval, broadest behind the middle. Elytra with a densely hairy, paler reddish-brown-yellow patch towards the base and with patchy areas of paler hairs beyond the middle. ....

..... ***Ixapion variegatum***

Associated with mistletoe.



Elytra more elongate. Base of the elytra with a pale area of hairs next to the scutellum or appearing hairless except on close inspection. ....6



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6 Club of the antennae long and slender, almost parallel-sided, as long as the previous six segments combined. Slender species, thickly white hairy above. Rostrum in females (on the right) almost as long as the body. ....

..... ***Rhopalapion longirostre***  
On marsh-mallow, (*Althea*) and hollyhocks.



Club of the antennae shorter and more oval. ....7



7 Rostrum straight, in males with an orange-brown tip. Underside covered with white scales. Underside of the head without a furrow. On average larger – length 2.1-3.5 mm. ....

..... ***Pseudapion rufirostre***

Associated with species of mallow.



Rostrum completely dark and curved in females. Underside of the head with a furrow which is sharply bordered at the sides. On average smaller – length 1.7-2.4 mm. ....8



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8 Upper surface black. Elytra with uniformly-coloured pale hairs or with a transversely oval bare area in the middle. ....

..... Genus **Kalcapion**

2 species, associated with *Mercurialis*. *K pallipes* (on *M. perennis*) on the left and *K semivittatum* on the right (on *M. annua*).



Upper surface pale or dark brown, only exceptionally almost black. Hairs on the elytra form interrupted transverse bands. ....

..... **Taeniapion urticarium**

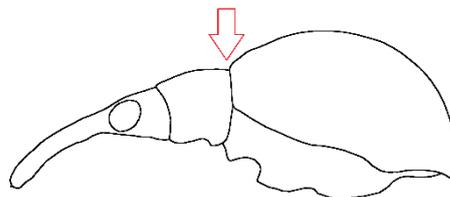
Associated with nettles.



Upper surface black. Elytra with the hairs very inconspicuous and lying on the surface. Elytra strongly arched, in side view curving strongly towards the pronotum and forming an abrupt angle with it. Viewed from behind the elytra are about as wide as high. ....

..... Genus **Protapion**

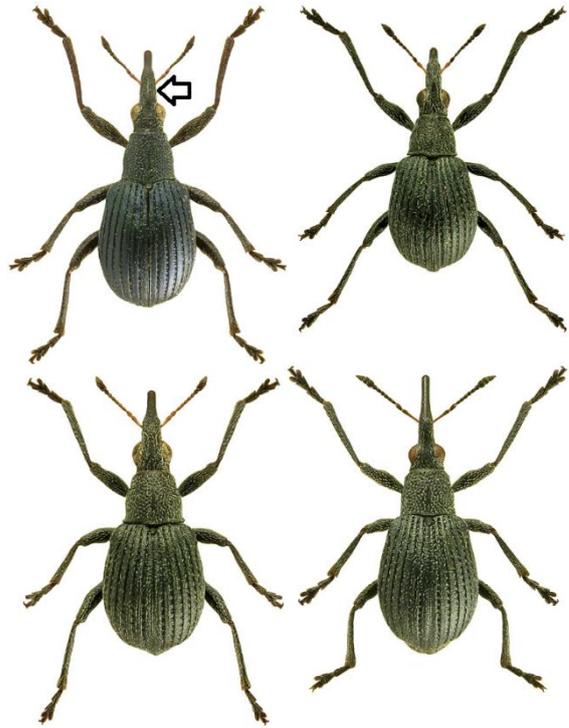
Associated with Fabaceae.



- 9 Rostrum conspicuously thickened towards the base, either gently or suddenly narrowing beyond; the narrower section, viewed from above, usually only half as wide as the basal section. ....

..... Genus ***Oxystoma***

4 species, associated with leguminous plants of genera *Vicia* and *Lathyrus*. Top left *O. pomonae*; top right *O. cerdo*; bottom left *O. cracca* and bottom right *O. subulatum*.

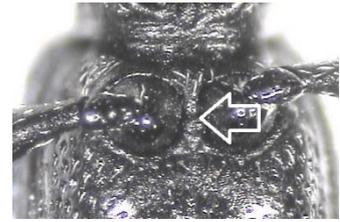


Rostrum otherwise. ....10



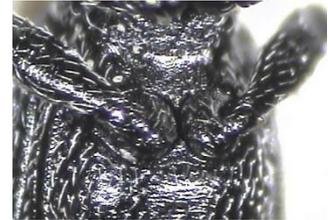
10 Antennae thickened, with the first segments of the flagellum at least as wide as the scape. The second segment of the antennae is cylindrical, scarcely narrower than the first. In doubtful cases, the middle coxae are separated. ....11

The segments of the flagellum are the third segment onwards. The scape is the first segment.



Antennae more slender, with the second segment of the flagellum noticeably thinner than the first which is not cylindrical. If in doubt the middle coxae are touching one another at the base and the hollows into which they fit are united. ....13

Lompe advises that he had not checked all genera for the separation of the middle coxae so use this character if in doubt about the antennae. It is important to measure the widest point of the scape which will probably require observing it slightly from the front. The scape should then appear club-shaped.



11 Frons with two deep longitudinal furrows which join to form a V or U shape. Pronotum with fine and dispersed punctures. ....

..... **Genus *Diplapion***

On Asteraceae of genera *Chrysanthemum*, *Anthemis* and *Matricaria*. 2 species, *D. confluens* (left) and *D. stolidum* (right).



Frons otherwise, sometimes with more than two furrows of which the middle ones may unite to form a V shape. ....12



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12 Pronotum with the punctures relatively coarse, dense or moderately dense. Base of the rostrum with a small tooth at the point of attachment of the antennae. Upper surface quite clearly hairy, sometimes only very fine. Elytra more elongate. ....

..... Genus *Ceratapion*

Four species associated with thistles and other Asteraceae.



Pronotum with fine, scattered punctures. Base of the rostrum without a tooth. Upper surface appearing bare. Elytra more distinctly rounded, metallic blue, blue-black or dark blue. ....

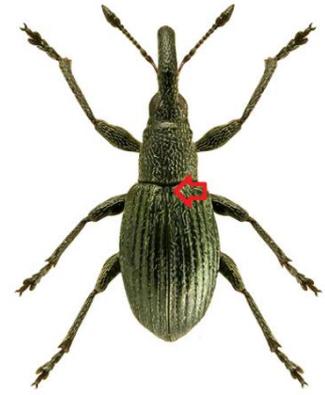
..... ***Acentrotypus brunnipes***

Photograph © U Schmidt. Associated with species of *Filago* and *Gnaphalium*.



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13 Scutellum narrower and pointed, more than twice as long as wide and often with two small tubercles at the base OR frons between the eyes with a long and deep longitudinal furrow. Upper surface often distinctively metallic greenish, coppery or bronze-coloured. Pronotum and base of rostrum distinctly and quite closely punctured. Claws toothed on the inner surface. ....  
 ..... Genus **Aspidapion**  
 On mallows. Three species.



Scutellum smaller, usually less elongate, without tubercles at the base, sometimes with a fine impression up the middle or with a furrow. Head without deep longitudinal furrows. ....14



14 Pronotum in section circular and with rounded sides viewed from above. Elytra short and broad, about 1.5 times as long as wide, with bulges on the shoulders, bare or almost so. ....

..... Genus ***Omphalapion***

Three species. On *Matricaria* and *Anthemis*.



Top surface of the pronotum much less convex in section and less curved than the sides. Elytra with or without bulges on the shoulders, hairy or not. ....15



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15 Scutellum not visible or only present as a point. Upper surface bare. Elytra oval without bulges on the shoulders.

..... ***Synapion ebeninum***

Most often on *Lotus uliginosus* in damp habitats. Widespread but local, reaching to southern Scotland.



Scutellum clearly visible. Upper surface hairy or bare, but if bare then with clear bulges on the shoulders or the elytra are broadest behind the middle. ....16



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16 Elytra black. ....17  
If the elytra are dark with a very weak blue or brassy shine, follow this lead.

Elytra blue, violet, greenish or with a clear brassy or bronzy shine. ....[28](#)



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17 Upper surface apparently bare (hairs only visible microscopically). Legs partly yellowish, at least the front femora. In *P. filirostre* the legs are black but in this species the rostrum is longer than the head and pronotum combined. Legs long and slender. Elytra clearly convex in section. ....

..... Genus ***Protapion***

Thirteen species.



Upper surface clearly hairy, at least in those species with the legs partly yellowish. If apparently bare and having black legs then the rostrum is shorter than the head and pronotum combined. ....18



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18 Base of the elytra only slightly broader than the base of the pronotum. Elytra clearly becoming broader beyond half way and broadly rounded at the tip, thus appearing pear-shaped. Bulge absent on the shoulders or the bulge is very weak. Upper surface clearly hairy. ....19  
On woody leguminous plants.



Elytra shaped otherwise. If the elytra are somewhat pear-shaped then a distinct bulge is present on the shoulders. ....20



19 Frons finely punctured and wrinkled, dull, clearly contrasting with the smooth and shining vertex behind the eyes. Pronotum with a clear longitudinal furrow. Scutellum clearly visible. First segment of the tarsi 1.3-1.6 times as long as wide. Elytra more bulbous. Length 2.2-3.1 mm. ....

..... ***Protopirapion atratum***

Mostly associated with *Cytisus scoparius*, occasionally on gorse. Generally common in England and Wales, becoming less common into Scotland.



Frons coarsely punctured with 3-5 clear longitudinal furrows between the eyes; the frons and vertex punctured right back to the pronotum. Pronotum without a long longitudinal furrows but with a short cavity before the base. Scutellum scarcely visible, point-like. First segment of the tarsi about as long as wide. Elytra more elongate. Length 2.0-2.8 mm. ....

..... ***Pirapion immune***

Associated with *Cytisus scoparius*, therefore on heaths and other sandy habitats. Local but widely distributed.



20 Elytra very elongate, 1.7-1.8 times as long as their combined width, clearly broadest behind the middle. Body narrow. ....  
..... Genus ***Stenoptera***  
Four species.



Elytra usually shorter and broader, rarely elongate, but then oval and broadest in front of the middle. ....21



21 Underside of the front half of the rostrum with long upright bristle-like hairs which can sometimes be seen from above. Front coxae densely white-hairy. ....

..... Genus **Holotrichapion**

Three species. *H. aethiops* (top left), *H. ononis* (top right) and *H. pisi* (below)



Underside of the rostrum bare or with the hairs lying on the surface. ....22



22 Rostrum conspicuously broad in males, wider than the front femora. The groove from which the antennae arise is extended both forwards and backwards from the point of insertion. ....

..... Genus *Cyanapion*

Three species. *C. afer* (top left), *C. gyllenhalii* (top right) and *C. spencii* (below).



Rostrum and antennal grooves otherwise. ....23

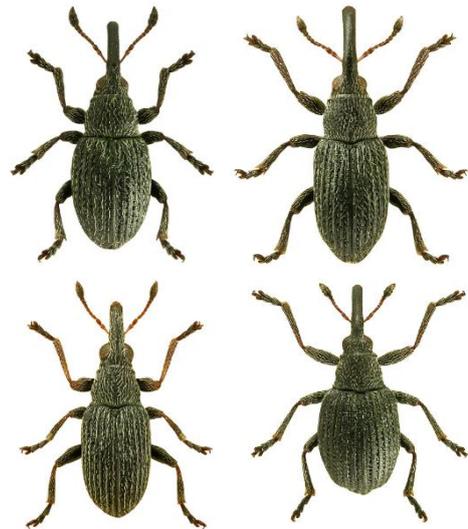


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23 Elytra short- or long-oval, widest at or before the middle. First stria on the elytra (the sutural stria) extends forwards to alongside the scutellum at the base of the elytra. ....

..... Genus **Squamapion**

Four species associated with Lamiaceae. *S. atomarium* (top left), *S. cineraceum* (top right), *S. flavimanum* (bottom left) and *S. vicinum* (bottom right).

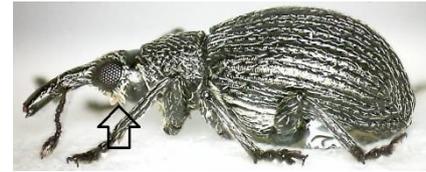


Elytra broadest behind the middle. In rare cases broadest in the middle, but then the first stria of the elytra ends at the scutellum or before. ....24



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24 Lower margin of the eyes with long, dense lines of white hairs (clearer in males). Front coxae and the sides of the mesosternum with dense white hairs. Elytra broadest behind the middle. ....25



Lower margin of the elytra with short pale hairs. Front coxae always sparsely hairy like the femur. Sides of the mesosternum usually also sparsely hairy. ....26



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25 Frons with diffuse punctures, without a longitudinal furrow or keel. Elytra relatively long. Antennae and legs black. Upper surface sometimes with a weak metallic shine. ....

..... ***Betulapion simile***

On birch.



Frons with several fine longitudinal furrows or keels. Elytra comparatively short and more broadening towards the tip. Antennae and/or legs often partly yellowish-red. ....

..... Genus ***Eutrichapion***

Two species key here, *E. ervi* (left) and *E. viciae* (right).



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26 Elytra apparently bare when viewed at low magnification, but with higher magnification sparsely covered with thin, long hairs. Rostrum robust, almost straight, not longer than the head and pronotum combined. Pronotum with coarse punctures. ....27



Elytra with clear and more or less dense hairs. If in doubt then the punctures on the pronotum are almost absent. ....28



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27 Striae on the elytra deep; beyond the middle they are as wide as the intervals between them; intervals becoming almost keeled towards the front. Central furrow of the pronotum in front of the scutellum fine. Pronotum with coarse and dense punctures. Middle coxae broadly divided.

..... ***Melanapion minimum***

Associated with willows.



Striae on the elytra narrower than the intervals between them. Pronotum less densely punctured, with a deep longitudinal furrow in the rear quarter. Middle coxae close together. ....

..... ***Aizobius sedi***

Associated with *Sedum* and *Sempervivum* species.



28 Elytra oval or elongate-oval. Flagellum of the antennae with outstanding hairs. Rostrum in females narrower and longer than in males. Mesosternum usually more densely hairy than the rest of the underside. ....

..... Genus **Catapion**

Three species, *C. pubescens* (left) and *C. seniculus* (right). The third species *C. curtisii* is illustrated on <http://apions.blogspot.co.uk/>



Elytra clearly broadest behind the middle (if in doubt then the hairs on the flagellum lie on the surface and the form of the rostrum is no different in males and females). Species with blue or otherwise coloured elytra where there is a slight shine but there was uncertainty at couplet 16. ....29



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29 Body, including the legs purple, reddish-violet or coppery-red. Rostrum thick and scarcely curved. Elytra appearing swollen, very finely and sparsely hairy. ....

..... ***Pseudaplemonus limonii***

Associated with sea lavender on saltmarshes.



Otherwise coloured. ....30



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30 Body narrow, the elytra 1.7-1.8 times as long as wide. Upper surface hairy, completely blue or brassy-green to bronzy. Rostrum short and straight. Pronotum as long as or rather longer than wide. Small species – length 1.4-2.2 mm. ....

..... ***Helianthemapion aciculare***

Associated with rock roses.



Body broader, particularly in species with a completely metallic upper surface. If the body is slender then the pronotum is black and the rostrum is longer or curved. ....31



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31 Club of the antennae twice as wide as the last segment of the flagellum and more broadening; last segment of the flagellum always broader than long. Rostrum short and less curved, shorter than the head and pronotum combined. Pronotum not broader than long, or scarcely so, with straight or slightly curved sides. Claws untoothed. Some species of *Perapion* have black elytra. ....32

Club not as broad compared to the last segment of the flagellum and less stepped; last segment of the flagellum not or only slightly broader than long. Rostrum longer and/or more curved. Claws toothed. ....33



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32 Quite sparsely white hairy. Club of the antennae clearly contrasting with the flagellum; last segment of the flagellum only slightly broader than the second-to-last. First segment of the hind tarsi in males with a downwardly-directed spur. Elytra green to blue or with a brassy shine. ....

..... Genus **Perapion**

Six species. Associated with docks. *Perapion affine* top left, *P. curtirostre* top right, *P. hydrolapathi* middle left, *P. lemoroii* middle right, *P. marchicum* bottom left, *P. violaceum* bottom right.



Comparatively densely white hairy. Males with denser and longer hairs on the underside than females. Club of the antennae less distinctly contrasting with the last segment of the flagellum because the last segment of the flagellum is broader thus forming a transition from flagellum to club. Antennae in females inserted in the basal third of the rostrum. Elytra with a brassy shine. ....

..... **Pseudoperapion brevirostre**

Associated with St John's Wort.



33 Frons between the eyes with a broad and shallow furrow.  
Length 1.9-2.5 mm. ....  
..... **Cyanapion spencii**  
On vetches (*Vicia* species)



Frons flat or weakly raised between the eyes, rarely slightly furrowed but then  
with three low keels. ....34



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34 Upper surface clearly hairy. ....35

Upper surface appearing bare. ....38



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35 Upper surface completely and distinctly metallic blue, blue-green or violet or black, or dark bronze-shining or with an indistinct bluish or brassy shine. Tarsi short with the first segment at most very slightly longer than the second. ....

..... Genus ***Ischnopterapion***

Three species. *I. loti* top left, *I. modestum* top right and *I. virens* below. On clovers and trefoils (*Trifolium* and *Lotus*).



Head and pronotum black, sometimes with a weak blue shine, but in these cases the pronotum is densely punctured. ....36



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- 36 Antennae yellow or with at least the first and second segments yellow. Scutellum with white hair. Pronotum in front of the scutellum without a longitudinal furrow. Length 2.3-2.9 mm. ....

..... ***Eutrichapion vorax***

Associated with vetches (genus *Vicia*)



Antennae black. Scutellum may be bare and the pronotum may have a fine longitudinal furrow in front of this. ....37



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37 Elytra black, with a greasy or dark bronzy shine or with an indistinct bluish or brassy-green sheen. Tarsi short with the first segment not or only scarcely longer than the second. ....

..... Genus ***Ischnoptera****pion*

Two species may key here, *I. loti* (left) and *I. modestum* (right). On clovers and trefoils (*Trifolium* and *Lotus*).



Elytra blue or dark blue, often appearing grey due to the thick hair. Elytra shorter, about 1.5 times as long as their combined width. First segment of the hind tarsi longer than the second. ....38



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38 Hairs on the elytra very clear, each hair at least as long as its distance from the next hair back. ....

..... Genus **Hemitrichapion**

Two species, *H. reflexum* (left, on *Onobrychis*) and *H. waltoni* (right, on *Hippocrepis*).



Hairs on the elytra short and thin, only visible at higher magnification. ....39



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39 Pronotum roundly narrowing towards the front or concave on the front margin.  
Head and pronotum often shining metallic. ....40

Pronotum with straight sides, weakly  
narrowing towards the front. Head and  
pronotum blackish-blue or blue. ....

..... Genus ***Holotrichapion***

Three species. *H. aethiops* (top left), *H. ononis* (top right) and  
*H. pisi* (below)

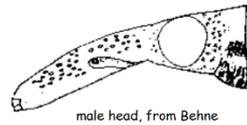


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40 Rostrum straight or almost so, rather narrowing towards the front. Eyes noticeably convex. Frons with three, often indistinct longitudinal furrows. Elytra relatively short and distinctly rounded, blue or blackish-blue, very rarely black. ...

..... ***Eutrichapion punctigerum***

On peas



Rostrum more or less strongly curved. Elytra clearly metallic; head and pronotum often so. ....

..... ***Pseudoprotapion astragali***

Associated with *Astragalus*, the larvae feeding in flower buds



# Genus *Apion*

## Reference

The source of this translation can be found at <http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/apion.htm>. These German keys are derived from earlier work by Dieckmann and Behne. Translated by Mike Hackston and reproduced here with the kind permission of Dr Arved Lompe.

Easily recognised by the uniformly red-orange body. The upper surface is usually covered with thin and fine hair (only longer and more distinct in *rubens*). Several different species may be found together on the same host plant. Exclusively associated with *Rumex* species (docks, Polygonaceae).

## Checklist

From the Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, 2012 edition, edited by A. G. Duff, (available from [www.coleopterist.org.uk/checklist.htm](http://www.coleopterist.org.uk/checklist.htm)).

Genus ***APION*** Herbst, 1797  
***cruentatum*** Walton, 1844  
***frumentarium*** (Linnaeus, 1758)  
***haematodes*** Kirby, 1808  
***rubens*** Stephens, 1839  
***rubiginosum*** Grill, 1893

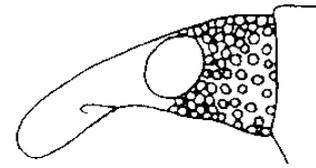
## Image Credits

Unless otherwise indicated the photographs of whole beetles in this key are reproduced from the Iconographia Coleopterorum Poloniae, with permission kindly granted by Lech Borowiec.

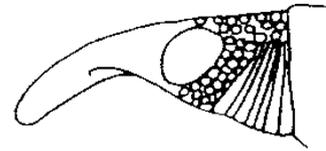


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1 Head between the eyes and the pronotum uniformly coarsely punctured. ....2



Rear half of the area of the head between the eyes and the pronotum smooth and shining with microscopic transverse striations. ....3

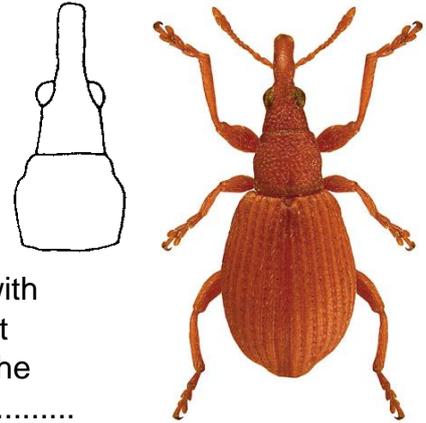


Line drawings from Dieckmann



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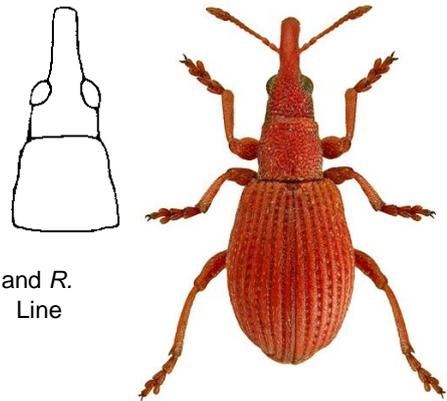
- 2 Head long and conical, with the distance from the front margin of the eyes to the pronotum considerably longer than the width across the eyes. Viewed from the sides the temples are more than 1.5 times as long as the diameter of the eyes (distinguishing this species from all others in the genus). Pronotum rounded at the sides and distinctly constricted towards the front, with strong punctures and with a longitudinal furrow that extends almost to the middle. Largest species of the genus, 3.3-4.5 mm. ....



..... **Apion frumentarium**

On various broad-leaved species of *Rumex* such as *R. hydrolapathum*, *R. obtusifolia*, *R. crispus* and *R. conglomeratus*. Larvae feed in the stems and the top of the root. Widely distributed and quite common.

- Head more rectangular with the distance from the front of the eyes to the front of the pronotum shorter than the breadth across the eyes. Sides of the pronotum almost straight with a short longitudinal impression in front of the scutellum. Length 2.4-3.6 mm. ....

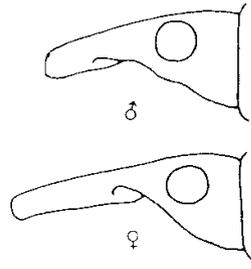


..... **Apion cruentatum**

Larvae feed in the stems of *Rumex acetosa* (rarely in *R. alpestris* and *R. acetosella* on the Continent). Rather local but widely distributed. Line drawings from Dieckmann



3 In side view the rostrum is almost straight, with the underside only weakly angled towards the base. Rostrum as long as the pronotum in males and longer than that in females and shining. Pronotum not or only slightly broader than long, almost straight at the sides. Elytra rather flattened dorsally. Length 2.5-3.2 mm.



..... ***Apion rubiginosum***

Larvae produce root galls in *Rumex acetosella*. Very local and uncommon, but widely distributed. Line drawings from Dieckmann

In side view the rostrum is clearly curved. Relatively smaller beetles. ....4  
 Photograph from Lompe (2012)



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- 4 Paler red in colour, like the preceding three species with thin and short hair. Pronotum scarcely broader than long with the sides almost parallel or only clearly narrowing towards the front. Elytra convex and quite clearly and roundly broadened towards the rear. ....

..... ***Apion haematodes***

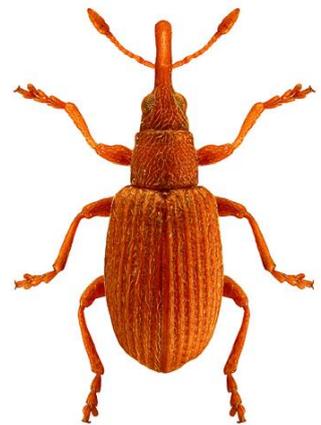
Larvae in the very top of the roots of *Rumex acetosella*. The commonest red weevil on *R. acetosella*, often abundant.



More dull red in colour with the hairs distinctly longer. Pronotum comparatively small and clearly broader than long, broadest in the middle and clearly rounded at the sides. Elytra more than three times as long as the pronotum, slender, little broadening in the rear half, almost parallel-sided. Head rather wider than in other species. Length 2.2-2.7 mm. ....

..... ***Apion rubens***

Larvae produce galls in the petioles and midribs of *Rumex acetosella*. Local but widely distributed.



## Genus *Diplapion*

Translated from <http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/diplapion.htm>

Genus **DIPLAPION** Reitter, 1916

**confluens** (Kirby, 1808)

**stolidum** (Germar, 1817)

Frons with two parallel or posteriorly convergent longitudinal furrows which unit to form a V- or U-shape. Segments 2-8 of the antennal funicle are equal in width. Second segment of the funicle (third antennal segment) distinctly cylindrical, like the first funicular segment, but usually clearly narrower than it. Pronotum cylindrical, sparsely punctured. Elytra slightly broadening towards the rear, broadest behind the middle or almost parallel-sided. Black distinctly hairy species although the hairs are often very fine. Length 1.8-2.5 mm. Larvae develop on Asteraceae of genera *Matricaria*, *Anthemis* and *Chrysanthemum*.

- 1 Furrows on the frons quite long, not clearly deepening towards the rear, forming  $\pm$  a V-shape. Striae of the elytra weakly and finely punctured. Upper surface with a slight leaden sheen. The rostrum is quite strongly curved and is somewhat shorter (males) or as long as (females) the head and pronotum combined. Male: first segment of the tarsi with a fine tooth on the inner surface. Length 1.9-2.2 mm.

..... ***Diplapion confluens***

Larvae at the top of the roots of species of *Tripleurospermum* and *Matricaria* (also on *Anthemis* on the Continent). Locally common with a preference for coastal habitats.



Furrows on the frons shorter and parallel, forming a deepened U-shape at the rear. Striae on the elytra more strongly punctured. Male: first segment of the tarsi with a tiny tooth. Female rostrum as long as the head and pronotum combined. Male rostrum shorter and dull shagreened, clearly broader in the basal third than in the apical section. Length 1.8-2.3 mm. ....

..... ***Diplapion stolidum***

Larvae probably develop in the stems of *Leucanthemum vulgare* (possibly in *Anthemis* and *Matricaria* species on the Continent). Local but widely distributed.



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# Genus *Ceratapion*

Genus **CERATAPION** Schilsky, 1901

Subgenus *CERATAPION* Schilsky, 1901

**armatum** (Gerstaecker, 1854)

**carduorum** (Kirby, 1808)

**gibbirostre** (Gyllenhal, 1813)

Subgenus *ACANEPHODUS* Alonso-Zarazaga, 1990

**onopordi** (Kirby, 1808)

Antennae inserted in the basal quarter of the rostrum (rarely further forward in male *armatum*). Rostrum usually bluntly or acutely broadening at the point of insertion. Antennal funicle as broad as the scape with the first and second segments clearly cylindrical; second segment not or only slightly narrower than the first and at least as wide as the remaining segments. Elytra long ovate. Rostrum curved. Often with a marked sexual dimorphism. Larvae develop in family Asteraceae, tribe Cynaraeae (thistles).

- 1 Base of the rostrum rounded at the sides. Segments of the tarsi slightly longer than wide. Ends of the tegmen roundly incised. Subgenus *Acanephodus*. .....  
..... ***Ceratapion onopordi***



Base of the rostrum broadened into a tooth at the sides. Segments of the tarsi clearly longer than wide. Ends of the tegmen deeply and acutely incised.  
Subgenus *Ceratapion*. .....2



2 Base of the rostrum with an angle tooth each side. ....3

Base of the rostrum with a blunt tooth or rounded swelling.  
Length 2.7-3.2 mm. ....  
..... ***Ceratapion carduorum***



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- 3 Elytra dark blue, clearly broadening towards the rear, distinctly and densely hairy. Frons and vertex with fine and dense longitudinal striations. Rostrum as long as the head and pronotum combined. Pronotum cylindrical and finely punctured. Male: inner angle of the front tibiae and the underside of the first segment of the tarsi with a small tooth. Length 2.2-2.9 mm. ....  
..... ***Ceratapion gibbirostre***



Upper surface completely black with fine and sparse pale hairs. Smaller, more slender species, 1.8-2.3 mm with the elytra only weakly broadened towards the rear, appearing much more elongate. Male: front tibiae broadened towards the tip and flattened, curved at the tip; first segment of the hind tarsi with a large tooth. ....  
..... ***Ceratapion armatum***



## Genus *Exapion*

Genus *Exapion* Bedel, 1887

*difficile* (Herbst, 1797)

*fuscirostre* (Fabricius, 1775)

*genistae* (Kirby, 1811)

*ulicis* (Forster, 1771)

- 1 Upper surface more generally uniform in colour with the scales or bristles of the same size all over - beware that if the scales are rubbed off, an impression of varied colour may be given with the colour of the underneath showing through. Pronotum with the hairs at most only slightly denser at the sides than on top. ....2

Upper surface of more than one colour with the scales or bristles different colours in different areas, with paler scales forming straight or oblique stripes. Pronotum with the hairs towards the sides clearly denser at the sides than on top. ....3



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- 2 Head punctured on the vertex (although this is often covered by the front of the pronotum). Elytra with elongate-oval scales with a rather metallic shine, which cover both the striae and the intervals between them – these give the upper surface a silky sheen. Antennae and legs yellowish red; tip of the antennae along with the middle and hind legs usually largely black. Rostrum long and almost straight in both sexes, even longer in females (1.3 times the length of the head and pronotum combined). Antennae very long and slender. Males lack a spur on the first segment of the middle and hind tarsi. Length 1.9-2.5 mm. ....



..... ***Exapion ulicis***

Larvae develop in the seeds of *Ulex europaeus*. Common in England and Wales, becoming less so into Scotland.

Vertex lacking punctures and shining. Elytra at least on the inner intervals with hairs although there may be more scale-like hairs in a strip behind the scutellum. Rostrum in females at most only slightly longer than the head and pronotum combined; tarsi black or dark brown. Males have the first segment of the middle and hind tarsi with a spur. Length 2-2.3 mm. ....



..... ***Exapion difficile***

Larvae develop in the seeds of *Genista* species. Very local and scarce species.



- 3 Elytra with paler hair-like scales forming an oblique band running from the shoulders towards the middle, extending about three-quarters of the length of the elytra; remainder with rusty-red or brown hair-like scales. Elytra relatively narrower and more elongate, appearing higher than wide when viewed from behind. ....

..... ***Exapion fuscirostre***

Larvae develop in the seeds of *Cytisus scoparius* (broom). Locally common in the south east and south of England but there are suggestions that it is declining in numbers. Rostrum clearly narrowing towards the tip. Head, pronotum and elytra dark brown. Antennae and legs rusty-red; club of the antennae and the tarsi and the base of the femora more darkened. Length 2.4-3 mm.



Elytra with the paler hair-like scales forming a straight band between the third and fifth intervals. Elytra relatively shorter and broader, more rounded at the sides and flatter on top - viewed from behind the elytra are at least as broad as high - this gives the weevil an altogether dumpier appearance. Pronotum broader than long. Legs relatively shorter. ....

..... ***Exapion genistae***

On *Genista anglica* with the larvae feeding in the pods. Local but widely distributed from Dorset to Scotland with an eastern bias. For a photograph see [https://www.flickr.com/photos/roger\\_key/2678949753/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/roger_key/2678949753/)



# Genus *Cyanapion*

Subgenus *Cyanapion* Bokor, 1923

***spencii*** (Kirby, 1808)

Subgenus *Bothryorrhynchapion* Bokor, 1923

***afer*** (Gyllenhal, 1833)

***gyllenhalii*** (Kirby, 1808)

Elytra blue or dull black, shortly oval or obovate, clearly hairy. Antennae often paler brownish towards the base. Eyes evenly bulging, with the frons between them with a groove or with fine longitudinal striations. Rostrum relatively thick in males, weakly curved. Pronotum often with an almost complete median furrow (may be indistinct or only really clear towards the base), strongly and rather densely punctured, weakly constricted behind the front margin and before the base. In males of subgenus *Cyanapion* the metasternum has a tubercle or tooth before the front margin.

- 1 Elytra blue, shortly oval with a groove along the centre of the frons. Metasternum in males with a pointed tubercle or tooth before the front margin. Subgenus *Cyanapion*. Length 1.9-2.5 mm. ....

..... ***Cyanapion spencei***

Oligophagous on vetches (*Vicia*). In damp habitats and fens, but also roadsides, on species of *Vicia*, particularly *Vicia cracca*. Rather local but widely distributed in Great Britain.



Elytra dull black, shortly oval, obovate. Frons with fine longitudinal striations. Metasternum in males without a tooth. Subgenus *Bothryorrhynchapion*. ....2



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- 2 Head forming an even tapering outline from the pronotum to the base of the rostrum (only slightly interrupted by the almost flattened eyes). Head in males as long as wide; longer in females; temples as long as or almost as long as the diameter of the eyes, viewed from above. Pronotum not clearly tapering towards the front. Eyes, viewed from the side, usually elongate oval or shortly oval. Length 2.3-2.9 mm. ....

..... ***Cyanapion gyllenhalii***

Larval development is in galls in the transition between stem and root on species of vetch particularly *Vicia cracca*. Widely distributed in the British Isles but local in hedgerows, trackways and woodland margins.



Head broader with more or less parallel temples; temples clearly shorter than the diameter of the eyes viewed from above. Eyes viewed from the side rounded or shortly oval. Pronotum weakly tapering towards the front. Length 2.0-2.5 mm. ....

..... ***Cyanapion afer***

Widely distributed in Great Britain but local in hedgerows, trackways and woodland margins.

