



Scottish Longhorn Beetle Guide

What are Longhorn beetles?

Longhorn beetles are a group of beetles who belong to the Family Cerambycidae. There are around 20,000 species around the world, 60+ known species in the UK, 28 of which have been observed in Scotland (not all of these species are known to be successfully established in Scotland, however). Their name arises from their characteristically long antennae which they use to seek out suitable nesting sites and mates. There are many colourful species, some with warning colouration to ward off predators.

Life Cycle

For Longhorn beetles, life usually starts inside a slowly rotting, fungus-filled piece of deadwood—whether that be an old trunk, branch or stump. However, there are a number of species who choose to lay their eggs inside living trees. After hatching from their egg Longhorn larvae proceed to feed upon their chosen food source - wood. Because wood is of low nutritional value, the larvae have to eat a lot of it to gain enough resources and energy to pupate into adulthood. Longhorns therefore spend between 1 and 3 years (depending on the species) as larvae. After pupation, they burrow out of the wood and emerge as adults and

proceed to feed on nectar from flowers. They then find a mate using their antennae to smell each other out. After breeding the females will lay their eggs inside their chosen tree or plant.



Longhorn beetle larva

Ecological Importance

Longhorn beetles are an immensely important member of woodland ecosystems. They eat decaying wood and return the nutrients to the living ecosystem. Alongside their important role in recycling they pollinate woodland flowers and act as an essential food source for many other animals.

Survey Techniques

Summer is the optimum time to find Longhorns. Search on broad flower heads, trees and dead wood. Particularly on freshly cut or fallen wood.

Abundance Key

- = Confirmed residence in Scotland
- = Records scarce
- = Very few records, Scottish status unclear



Name: Musk Beetle (*Aromia moschata*)

Description: Between 30 - 40mm length. Very long antennae. Coppery or greenish metallic colour. Adults emit a musky secretion, hence the common name.

Habitat: Can be encountered on flowers and tree trunks of willows near to wetlands July to August.



Name: Violet tanbark beetle (*Callidium violaceum*)

Description: Between 8 - 18mm length. Characteristic metallic blue, violet or greenish colour.

Habitat: Can be found on conifers between May and July.



Name: Wasp beetle (*Clytus arietus*)

Description: Between 9 - 18mm length. Black with a symmetrical pattern of yellow bands resembling a wasp pattern. Orange-brown legs and antennae.

Habitat: Can be encountered on flowers from May to July.



Name: Basket longhorn beetle (*Gracilia minuta*)

Description: Between 2.5 - 7mm length. Is one of the smallest European longhorn beetles. Very long antennae (longer than body and head). Brown in colour.

Habitat: Can be encountered on a variety of trees and shrubs from May to August.



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Name: Timberman beetle (*Acoanthocinus aedilis*)

Description: Between 12 - 20mm. Exceptionally long antennae, on males are 3 - 5 times longer than body, on females 1.5 - 2 times. Grayish-brown colour with 4 yellowish spots located near the head.

Habitat: Can be encountered on the felled trunks of pine trees from March to September



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Name: Golden-bloomed grey longhorn (*Agapanthus villosoviridescens*)

Description: Between 10 - 22mm length. Golden iridescent bloom on the wing cover and thorax. Antennae with distinctive dark and light bands.

Habitat: Can be encountered on wet meadows and hedgerows feeding on hogweed, cow parsley or nettles from May to August.



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Name: Weaver beetle (*Lamia textor*)

Description: between 15 - 32mm length. Dark brownish-black colour sometimes decorated on the wing covers with lighter spots. Unusually hard body.

Habitat: Can be encountered in leafy woodlands and wooded wetland areas rich in willows from April to October.



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Name: Black-clouded longhorn
(*Leiopus nebulosus*)

Description: Between 5 - 10 mm length. Wing cover with a dark pattern on a pale background. Antennae with dark and light bands.

Habitat: Can be encountered in deciduous trees from May to July



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Name: *Pogonocherus fasciculatus*

Description: Between 5 - 8mm length. Reddish brown or brown colour. Each wing cover has 3 parallel ridges. Antennae with dark and light bands. Legs are short and powerful.

Habitat: Found in conifers but also in deciduous trees from April to July. Known to feign death!



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Name: Greater thorn-tipped longhorn
(*Pogonocherus hispidulus*)

Description: 5 - 8mm in length. Greyish-black in colour, with a wide whitish stripe on the upper part of the wing cover. Well camouflaged on trees and shrubs because of its lichen-like appearance.

Habitat: Can be encountered on deciduous trees and shrubs from April to August.



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Name: *Saperda carcharias*

Description: Between 20 - 28mm length. Wing cover yellow-grey with numerous shiny black spots. The antennae of the male are longer than its body and have alternating yellow and black rings.

Habitat: Has a preference for living Aspen trunks and can be found from July to September.



Name: Small poplar borer (*Saperda populnea*)

Description: Between 11-14 mm length. Black body with dense golden-yellow hair. Each wing cover has 4-5 round golden yellow spots. Antennae have dark and light bands.

Habitat: Adults active from May to July and found in Aspen. They make galls on living twigs.



Name: *Saperda scalaris*

Description: Between 11 - 19 mm in length. Black and yellow patterns on wing cover with waves and dots. Antennae with dark and light bands.

Habitat: Can be encountered in deciduous trees and occasionally in conifers from May to July.



Name: Lime beetle (*Stenostola ferrea*)

Description: Between 10 - 13mm length. The body is black and the wing cover a dark shining metallic greenish blue. Very long antennae.

Habitat: Can be encountered in deciduous trees (has a preference for Lime) from May to July.



Name: Tobacco-coloured longhorn (*Alosterna tabacicolor*)

Description: Between 6 - 10mm length. Characteristic medium-brown colour with darker brown stripe down the middle. Dark brownish black head and antennae.

Habitat: Can be encountered on flowers in woodland areas from May to July. Larvae prefer very decayed wood of deciduous and coniferous trees.

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Name: *Anastrangalia sanguinolenta*

Description: Between 8 - 13mm length. Head, antennae and upper body are black in both sexes, while wing covers are red in the female and yellowish-brown in the male.

Habitat: Can be encountered on conifers and flowers from May to August.

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Name: *Grammoptera ruficornis*

Description: At 3-7mm in length it is one of our smallest longhorn beetles. Brownish or dark grey in colour with silky hairs on the wing covers. Long red and black banded antennae.

Habitat: Can be encountered on flowers and sometimes in well wooded areas from May to August.



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Name: *Judolia sexmaculata*

Description: Between 8-14 mm length. Blackish-dark brown colour. There are three light-yellow bands going across the wing cover.

Habitat: Can be encountered on, deciduous trees, conifers and flowers from June to August.



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Name: Long-banded longhorn
(*Leptura quadrifasciata*)

Description: Between 13-18mm in length, black all over except for four orange-yellow bands going across wing cover.

Habitat: Can be encountered in flowers from July to August.



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Name: Speckled longhorn
(*Pachytodes cerambyciformis*)

Description: Between 7 - 12mm length. Wing covers are light-brown with black spots, which are variable and sometimes absent. Head, antennae and legs are dark brown/black.

Habitat: Can be encountered on deciduous trees, conifers and flowers from May to August.



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Name: Two-banded longhorn
(*Rhagium bifasciatum*)

Description: Between 12 - 22mm in length. Has 2 distinct white-yellow marks on the each side of the wing cover. Legs are black and red-brown.

Habitat: Can be encountered on flowers from May to August and is attracted to freshly felled pine.



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Name: Ribbed Pine Borer (*Rhagium inquisitor*)

Description: Between 12 - 15mm in length. The body is black or brownish, covered in speckles and grey hair - it is well camouflaged for hiding in woodland leaf litter and amongst dead wood. Antennae are twice as short as body.

Habitat: Can be encountered on flowers and on coniferous pine (preference for Scots Pine) from April to August.



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Name: Black-spotted longhorn
(*Rhagium mordax*)

Description: Between 13- 23mm in length. Yellow beetle with brown and black mottling and two eye-like spots on its wing covers. Short antennae.

Habitat: Can be encountered in open-structured flowers and deciduous trees from May to July.



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Name: Black & Yellow Longhorn
(*Rutpela maculata*)

Description: Between 13 - 20mm long. The head is dark-brownish-black while the wing covers are yellow with black dots and stripes. Antennae with yellow and black stripes

Habitat: Can be found on flowers, hedgerows and woodland margins from May to August.



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Name: *Arhopalus rusticus*

Description: Between 10 - 30mm in length. Dark brown or brown-red beetle. The body is elongated, flattened and slightly hairy.

Habitat: Can be encountered in coniferous forests on Scots pine and Norway spruce from June to October. Crepuscular nocturnal species.



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Name: Black spruce borer (*Asemum striatum*)

Description: Between 8 - 23 mm long. Head and thorax are usually black while wing covers are brown with ridges.

Habitat: Can be encountered in coniferous trees from May to August. Can be found at dawn and dusk.



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Name: Black spruce longhorn beetle
(*Tetropium castaneum*)

Description: Between 8 - 19mm length. This beetle is almost completely black apart from its brown-red legs.

Habitat: Can be encountered near and on Norway spruce and Scots pine forests from May to September, with a peak in June-July.

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Name: Larch longhorn beetle
(*Tetropium gabrieli*)

Description: Between 8 - 18 mm long. Similar in appearance to *Arhopalus rusticus* but found on different trees.

Habitat: Most likely found on or near Larch between May and August. Can be found at dawn and dusk.



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Watch Out for the Invasive Asian Longhorn beetle!

Originally from China and Korea, the Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) has not yet been spotted in Scotland. However, we must keep an eye out for this invasive species as it has caused extensive damage to living broadleaved trees. It is now thought of as one of the most dangerous pests for these trees.

If you think you have found an Asian longhorn beetle, please catch it and report it to the Forestry Commission, SNH or Buglife with a photo.

www.buglife.org.uk Tel: 01786 447 504  @buzz_dont_tweet

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