Checklist of the Collembola:
Key to common surface dwelling species of Collembola from the UK

This key is still under construction. Note that missing figures will be provided as soon as possible. Currently, the key is in the feasibility study phase to find out how to integrate in the checklist in a modular way a key that has been generated with DELTA.

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Preamble

This experimental and macrophotographically illustrated key is intended to key out the most common surface dwelling species of Collembola from Cheshire, Derbyshire and Chadkirk, UK, based on habitus inspection of alive specimens in the field using at most a magnification of 5x.

All illustrations courtesy of Shane Farrell.

Key

1(0). Body form elongate......................................................... 2
     Body form subglobular................................................... 15

2(1). Legs long............................................................... 3
     Legs short................................................................... 12

3(2). Body iridescent, covered with scales (fig.1)...................... 4
     Body not iridescent, not covered with scales...................... 7

     Fig.1.

4(3). Antennae long.................................................................. 5
     Antennae short (fig.2)................................. Lepidocyrtus cyaneus

Size of Collembola compared to thumb

http://www.collembola.org/key/fkuk.pdf - Last updated on 2009.03.14 by Frans Janssens
5(4). Body iridescent uniform bluish (fig.3)...... Tomocerus minor
Body iridescent uniform greyish............................... 6

6(5). Antennae longer than body (fig.4)..............................
.............................. Pogonognathellus longicornis
Antennae shorter than body (fig.5)..............................
.............................. Pogonognathellus flavescens

7(3). Body colour not uniform, but with pigmentation pattern; body
with short and long setae................................. 8
Body colour uniform blue; body with dense cover of short setae
(fig.6)........................................ Vertagopus arboreus
8(7). Body with few long dorsal setae (fig.7) . . Isotomurus palustris
Body with many long dorsal setae............................... 9

9(8). Basal two antennal segments not subdivided; body setae
numerous; antennae with 4 segments......................... 10
Basal two antennal segments subdivided (fig.8); body setae
very numerous; antennae with 6 segments............... 11

10(9). Body pigmentation pattern in distinct transversal bands
(fig.9)........................................ Entomobrya albocincta
Body pigmentation pattern patchy in longitudinal bands
(fig.10)........................................ Entomobrya intermedia
11(9). Body pigmentation pattern in distinct transversal bands (fig.11).......................... Orchesella cincta
Body pigmentation pattern in random patches (fig.12)..........
.......................................................... Orchesella villosa

12(2). Body with tubercles; body setae long......................... 13
Body without tubercles; body setae short......................... 14

13(12). Body colour uniform bluish (fig.13)......... Neanura muscorum
Body colour uniform yellowish (fig.14)....... Monobella grasslei
14(12). Body colour uniform purplish (fig.15); eyes present............
                         Hypogastrura purpurascens
Body colour uniform whitish (fig.16); eyes absent............
                         Protaphorura armata

15(1). Body colour patchy yellow-brown.............................. 16
Body colour uniform........................................ 18

16(15). Longitudinal anterior middorsal pigment more dark than
surrounding pigment (fig.17)............... Dicyrtoma fusca 1
Longitudinal anterior middorsal pigment more pale than
surrounding pigment...................................... 17

17(16). Dorsal posterior patch multi barred cross shaped (fig.18).....
                         Dicyrtomina saundersi
Dorsal posterior patch solid rectangular (fig.19).............
........................................ Dicyrtomina ornata

Fig.18.

18(15). Body colour uniform black-purple (fig.20)..............
........................................ Deuterosminthurus pallipes
Body colour uniform brown.................................... 19

Fig.19.

19(18). Body colour brown matt (fig.21).................. Dicyrtoma fusca
Body colour brown shiny (fig.22).................. Allacma fusca

Fig.20.

Fig.21.
Endnotes

1 Colour variant with distinct longitudinal anterior middorsal dark stripe.

Differential diagnoses

**Allacma fusca**

**Deuterosminthurus pallipes**
Body colour uniform. Body colour uniform black-purple (fig.20). Body form subglobular.

**Dicyrtoma fusca**

**Dicyrtoma fusca**
Body colour patchy yellow-brown. Body form subglobular. Longitudinal anterior middorsal pigment more dark than surrounding pigment (fig.17).

**Dicyrtomina ornata**

**Dicyrtomina saundersi**
Body colour patchy yellow-brown. Body form subglobular. Dorsal posterior patch multi barred cross shaped (fig.18). Longitudinal anterior middorsal pigment more pale than surrounding pigment.

**Entomobrya albocincta**

**Entomobrya intermedia**
Hypogastrura purpurescens

Isotomurus palustris

Lepidocyrtus cyaneus
Antennae short (fig.2). Body iridescent, covered with scales (fig.1). Body form elongate. Legs long.

Monobella grassei

Neanura muscorum

Orchesella cincta

Orchesella villosa

Pogonognathellus flavescens
Antennae long. Antennae shorter than body (fig.5). Body iridescent, covered with scales (fig.1). Body form elongate. Body iridescent uniform greyish. Legs long.

Pogonognathellus longicornis
Antennae long. Antennae longer than body (fig.4). Body iridescent, covered with scales (fig.1). Body form elongate. Body iridescent uniform greyish. Legs long.

Protaphorura armata

Tomocerus minor
Antennae long. Body iridescent, covered with scales (fig.1). Body form elongate. Body iridescent uniform bluish (fig.3). Legs long.

Vertagopus arboreus
References