

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.



Size of Collembola compared to thumb

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*



Fig.2.

- 5(4). Body iridescent uniform bluish (fig.3)..... Tomocerus minor
 Body iridescent uniform greyish..... [6](#)



Fig.3.

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



Fig.4.



Fig.5.

- 7(3). Body colour not uniform, but with pigmentation pattern; body
 with short and long setae..... [8](#)
 Body colour uniform blue; body with dens cover of short setae
 (fig.6)..... Vertagopus arboreus



Fig.6.

- 8(7). Body with few long dorsal setae (fig.7).. *Isotomurus palustris*
 Body with many long dorsal setae..... [9](#)



Fig.7.

- 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](#)



Fig.8.

- 10(9). Body pigmentation pattern in distinct transversal bands (fig.9)..... *Entomobrya albocincta*
 Body pigmentation pattern patchy in longitudinal bands (fig.10)..... *Entomobrya intermedia*



Fig.9.



Fig.10.

- 11(9). Body pigmentation pattern in distinct transversal bands
 (fig.11)..... Orchesella cincta
 Body pigmentation pattern in random patches (fig.12).....
 Orchesella villosa



Fig.11.



Fig.12.

- 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 grassei*



Fig.13.



Fig.14.

- 14(12). Body colour uniform purplish (fig.15); eyes present.....
 Hypogastrura purpurescens
 Body colour uniform whitish (fig.16); eyes absent.....
 Protaphorura armata



Fig.15.



Fig.16.

- 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



Fig.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.



Fig.19.

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



Fig.20.

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



Fig.21.



Fig.22.

Endnotes

¹ Colour variant with distinct longitudinal anterior middorsal dark stripe.

Differential diagnoses

Allacma fusca

Body colour uniform. Body colour brown shiny (fig.22). Body colour uniform brown. Body form subglobular.

Deuterominthurus pallipes

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

Dicyrtoma fusca

Body colour uniform. Body colour brown matt (fig.21). Body colour uniform brown. Body form subglobular.

Dicyrtoma fusca¹

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

Dicyrtomina ornata

Body colour patchy yellow-brown. Body form subglobular. Dorsal posterior patch solid rectangular (fig.19). Longitudinal anterior middorsal pigment more pale than surrounding pigment.

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

Antennae with 4 segments. Basal two antennal segments not subdivided. Body not iridescent, not covered with scales. Body colour not uniform, but with pigmentation pattern. Body form elongate. Body pigmentation pattern in distinct transversal bands (fig.9). Body setae numerous. Body with short and long setae. Body with many long dorsal setae. Legs long.

Entomobrya intermedia

Antennae with 4 segments. Basal two antennal segments not subdivided. Body not iridescent, not covered with scales. Body colour not uniform, but with pigmentation pattern. Body form elongate. Body pigmentation pattern patchy in longitudinal bands (fig.10). Body setae numerous. Body with short and long setae. Body with many long dorsal setae. Legs long.

Hypogastrura purpurescens

Body without tubercles. Body colour uniform purplish (fig.15). Body form elongate. Body setae short. Eyes present. Legs short.

Isotomurus palustris

Body not iridescent, not covered with scales. Body colour not uniform, but with pigmentation pattern. Body form elongate. Body with short and long setae. Body with few long dorsal setae (fig.7). Legs long.

Lepidocyrtus cyaneus

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

Monobella grassei

Body with tubercles. Body colour uniform yellowish (fig.14). Body form elongate. Body setae long. Legs short.

Neanura muscorum

Body with tubercles. Body colour uniform bluish (fig.13). Body form elongate. Body setae long. Legs short.

Orchesella cineta

Antennae with 6 segments. Basal two antennal segments subdivided (fig.8). Body not iridescent, not covered with scales. Body colour not uniform, but with pigmentation pattern. Body form elongate. Body pigmentation pattern in distinct transversal bands (fig.11). Body setae very numerous. Body with short and long setae. Body with many long dorsal setae. Legs long.

Orchesella villosa

Antennae with 6 segments. Basal two antennal segments subdivided (fig.8). Body not iridescent, not covered with scales. Body colour not uniform, but with pigmentation pattern. Body form elongate. Body pigmentation pattern in random patches (fig.12). Body setae very numerous. Body with short and long setae. Body with many long dorsal setae. Legs long.

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

Body without tubercles. Body colour uniform whitish (fig.16). Body form elongate. Body setae short. Eyes absent. Legs short.

Tomocerus minor

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

Vertagopus arboreus

Body not iridescent, not covered with scales. Body colour uniform blue. Body form elongate. Body with dens cover of short setae (fig.6). Legs long.

References

- **Farrell, S. et Janssens, F.** 2008. [Contribution to the knowledge of the Collembola from Cheshire and Derbyshire, UK., Checklist of the Collembola of the World, 2008.01.22.](#)
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