Genus Panagaeus
Adapted by Mike Hackston from Lindroth (1974) and Baehr (2004)


Eyes hemispherical and conspicuous. Mainly black species; elytra reddish with a black cross-like pattern. Males are differentiated by having two moderately broadened segments on the front tarsi.

1 Larger on average - 7.5-9.0 mm. Pronotum relatively broader and more clearly tapering towards the base; area between the punctures on the pronotum smooth. The red apical markings usually extend to the sides of the elytra and may be linked with the larger shoulder marking along the side. In variety trimaculatus the black median band is divided into three patches, the ones at the sides smaller and rounded with the middle one larger and transverse. .............................................

 .......... Panagaeus cruxmajor
Moisture demanding species, occurring at the margin of standing or slowly running waters, where the soil is soft and the vegetation rich. Overwinter as adults under bark or at the base of willows and poplars. England and Wales northwards to Yorkshire. Very local; studies undertaken by C. Barnes showed it to be quite common along the River Trent between Newark and Gainsborough (The Coleopterist 27(3):135-143, 2018). Photograph from A. Lompe, published at http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/panagaeus.htm

Smaller on average - 6.5-8.0 mm. Pronotum more rounded; area between the coarse punctures with finer, shallower punctures. The red apical markings on the elytra do not extend to the margins and do not link to the shoulder margins. Elytra with the sides more rounded, the shoulders less protruding. Male front tarsi less dilated. .................................................................

 .......... Panagaeus bipustulatus
On open, sandy or gravelly ground with short meadow vegetation; often in chalky districts. England and Wales northwards to Yorkshire. Local and uncommon but much more often found than cruxmajor. Photograph reproduced from the Iconographia Coleopterorum Poloniae, with permission kindly granted by Lech Borowiec.