Genus *Trechus*

Small beetles which are rather subterranean in habits and therefore more or less lacking in pigment and without metallic reflection (though often with iridescent elytra). Most important distinguishing characters are:

- well-developed terminal segment of the palps
- backwardly strongly divergent frontal furrows
- "recurrent" sutural stria of the elytra (shared with *Tachys* and *Ocys*)
- third elytral interval with 3 dorsal punctures.
- all appendages pale.
- male with 2 dilated front tarsal segments.

**Checklist**


Genus *Trechus* Clairville, 1806
- *fulvus* Dejean, 1831
- *obtusus* Erichson, 1837
- *quadristriatus* (Schrank, 1781)
- *rivularis* (Gyllenhal, 1810)
- *rubens* (Fabricius, 1792)
- *secalis* (Paykull, 1790)
- *subnotatus* Dejean, 1831

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**Reference**

Key to the UK species of genus *Trechus*

Adapted by Mike Hackston from Lindroth (1974)

1 Base of pronotum curving at the sides, the hind-angles very obtuse, almost indistinct. Uniformly chestnut or reddish, or with elytra darkened apically. Shoulders of elytra very rounded, inner striae strongly punctured. Length 3.5-4.0 mm. .................................

........ *Trechus secalis*
In shaded and somewhat moist places, both in deciduous forests and rich meadows. England northwards to Cumbria.

Base of pronotum straight or only slightly curved at the sides, hind-angles distinct, angled or forming a tooth. .................................................................................................2
21 Elytra with at least 6 well-developed and punctured striae. ........................................3

Elytra with 3 or 4 distinct striae which are very indistinctly punctured. ......................5
32 Hind-angles of pronotum reduced to a tiny tooth, the sides diverging immediately in front of them. Elytra sometimes with more or less distinct pale spot towards the tip. Almost black to brown, elytra with the shoulders and extreme side-margins pale; elytra strongly iridescent. Length 4.5-5.0 mm. .............................

......... Trechus subnotatus
Usually near the coast, probably introduced with ballast. Recorded from Devon (Teignmouth and Dartmoor), Yorkshire (Huddersfield and Manchester), west London and Ireland (near Dublin). Usually on river banks often of quite polluted rivers. A Mediterranean species.

Pronotum with hind angles right angled or acutely angled and sides curving in front of them. Elytra not spotted. .................................................................4
Eyes small and flat, their diameter not exceeding their distance to the point of attachment of the antennae. Elytra not iridescent and without microscopic sculpture. Flatter species with the elytra more parallel-sided and the tip more abruptly sheared off. Entirely chestnut brown. Sides of pronotum with a flattened rim that continues to the front angles. Striae of the elytra strong. Length 4·8-5·7 mm. ..........................................................

........... *Trechus fulvus*

Eyes large, protruding, their diameter much longer than their distance to the point of attachment of the antennae. Elytra strongly iridescent due to a very dense microscopic sculpture running at right angles to the body axis. Reddish brown with head somewhat darker and elytra often paler. Outer striae of the elytra weak. Length 5·0-6·5 mm. ..........................................................

........... *Trechus rubens*
More or less underground but often flying at night. Among leaves and debris or under big stones, often near water. Local but widely distributed.
5. Length 4.4-4.8 mm. Base of pronotum straight with the hind angles sharp forming a tooth. First and second elytral striae parallel even at apex. Dark brown with the elytra darker and iridescent, first antennal segment and legs paler. Posterior dorsal puncture of elytra more removed from apex than in any other species. Length 4·4-4·8 mm. ....................................................

......... Trechus rivularis
In dark swampy woodland with Sphagnnum among damp sedge litter. Very rare in the Fens.

Usually less than 4 mm. Base of pronotum oblique laterally with the hind angles somewhat blunt. Second elytral stria deviating from first before the tip.................................................................6
Wings normal. Front supra-orbital puncture close to the eye. Chestnut to dark brown with the head and abdomen darkest, elytra slightly iridescent, usually with pale shoulders. Length 3.5-4.0 mm. 

******** Trechus quadristriatus
In open, rather dry country with short vegetation. Common and widely distributed

Wings highly reduced. Front supra-orbital puncture more removed from eye. Somewhat shorter with more rounded sides to the elytra. Eyes somewhat smaller. Hind-angles of pronotum less pronounced. Colour more greyish. Outer striae of the elytra more indistinct. 3.6-4.1 mm. 

******** Trechus obtusus
In open country. Widely distributed but local.