Subfamily Criocerinae

Key to species adapted and updated from Joy (1932) A Practical Handbook of British Beetles. Some additions to the key to genus *Oulema* translated from the German -original by A. Lompe, accessed at http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/oulema.htm and used with permission.

![Beetle diagram](image)

Checklist
From the Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles, 2012 edition, edited by A. G. Duff (now updated and available [here](#)). Currently accepted names are written in bold italics, synonyms used by Joy (1932) in italics.

**CRIOCERIS** Geoffroy, 1762  
*asparagi* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**LEMA** Fabricius, 1798  
*cyanella* (Linnaeus, 1758) (*puncticollis* Curtis, 1830)

**LILIOCERIS** Reitter, 1912 (not in Joy)  
*lili* (Scopoli, 1763)

**OULEMA** des Gozis, 1886 (treated in Joy as part of *Lema*)  
*erichsoni* (Suffrian, 1841)  
*melanopus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (*melanopa, septentrionis* (Weise 1880))  
*obscura* (Stephens, 1831) (*lichenis*)  
*rufocyanea* (Suffrian, 1847) (*melanopa*)

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Subfamily Criocerinae
Key to British genera and species adapted from Joy (1932) by Mike Hackston

1 Elytra green or blue with the sides narrowly reddish and with three yellow marks on each elytron which sometimes run together. ..................................................

......... Crioceris asparagi
Widespread in the south and east of England on cultivated Asparagus officinalis. Length 5-6.5 mm. Recently recorded from Ireland with larvae feeding on wild Asparagus prostratus.

Elytra more or less uniformly reddish. ..............................................

......... Lilioceris lilii
First recorded in 1940 this species has spread rapidly through England and south Wales, reaching central Scotland and Northern Ireland by 2002. It is a pest of Lilium species. Pronotum often darker than illustrated.

Elytra uniformly green or blue to bluish black. ..............................................
2 Pronotum narrowing at about the middle, closely punctured, blue. Length 4-5 mm. ...........................................................
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Lema cyanella
England, Scotland and Ireland, local on thistles

Pronotum narrowing close to base; punctures more spaced. ...........................................................
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Genus Oulema
5 species
Genus *Oulema*

The only genus in the subfamily with the claws fused together at the base.

1. Pronotum, femora and tibiae reddish orange. Length 4.0-4.8 mm. ................................. 2

2. Pronotum, femora and tibiae blue or black. Length 3.0-4.5 mm. ......................... 3
2 A rather duller looking beetle with the pronotum rather mottled dirty reddish-orange and the elytra grey-green; elytra slightly less elongate, about 2.8-3.3 times longer than wide. Antennae relatively short and thick, segment five about 1.4-1.9 times longer than wide. Punctures on the elytra relatively coarse, the interstices usually rather ridged. .......................................................... Oulema rufocyanea

A brighter species with the pronotum uniformly bright reddish-orange and the elytra a brighter green and slightly more elongate, about 3.3-4.0 times longer than wide. Antennae more elongate, segment five about 1.9-2.6 times longer than wide. Punctures on the elytra less coarse. .......................................................... Oulema melanopus

Common and widespread; sometimes a pest of oats. Elytra occasionally bluish-black or slightly purple
3 Elytra less elongate and thus beetle shorter - length 3-4 mm. Pronotum and elytra uniformly blue-grey. ........

........ Oulema obscura
Common and widespread.

Elytra more elongate. Length 4.0-4.5 mm. .........................................................4
4. Body dark blue-grey. Pronotum usually dark, almost black. Head sometimes greenish. Elytra comparatively more coarsely punctured. Length 3.5-4.0 mm. 

............... **Oulema melanopus** (Irish melanic form)
Rare in Ireland. Formerly regarded as a separate species but synonymised with *O melanopus* by Peter Hodge after he found the male genitalia were identical. Further work is needed to confirm this.

Pronotum blue-green. Upper surface conspicuously shining, greenish blue to almost black with greenish margins. Elytra more finely punctured. Length 4.0-4.5 mm. 

......... **Oulema erichsoni**
Very rare in southern England. Food plant is *Nasturtium* species on the Continent.