Subfamily Micropeplinae

Only one genus occurs in Britain, genus *Microplus* with five species:

**Source Material for the key**

Derived from a translation by Mike Hackston from the German key by Dr A Lompe (2012), derived from keys by Lohse. Published online at http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/microplus.htm. Translated and reproduced here with his kind permission.

**Checklist of species**


Genus *MICROPEPLUS* Latreille, 1809

- *caelatus* Erichson, 1839
- *fulvus* Erichson, 1840
- *porcatus* (Paykull, 1789)
- *staphylinoides* (Marsham, 1802)
- *tesserula* Curtis, 1828
Genus *Micropeplus*

Key to British species

1. Elytra without punctures between the ridges and with two ridges on each elytron between the sutural ridge and the humeral ridge. Dark brown species with the sides of the pronotum reddish brown. The smallest species of the genus, length 1.5 mm. .................................................................

 .......... *Micropeplus tesserula*

5% of the records on the NBN site refer to this species with the records widely spread through England and Wales. Some authorities refer this species to genus *Arthenopeplus*.

Elytra deeply punctured between the ridges. ........................................2
2  Elytra with only two ridges between the sutural ridge and the humeral ridge. Brown species; pronotum with reddish yellow sides; antennae and legs yellowish-red. Head with two or more furrows in the basal half. Elytra narrower than, or scarcely as wide as the pronotum. ..................................................3

Elytra with three ridges between the sutural ridge and the humeral ridge. Antennae and legs reddish brown; club of the antennae darker. Head with a central furrow on the basal half. Blackish brown species with the sides of the pronotum sometimes dully red. ..............................................................4
3  The middle ridge of the abdomen towards the base of the second to last tergite (fourth visible tergite) projects as a pointed tooth, almost reaching the hind margin of the segment (easily seen in side view). Vertex with two indistinct furrows in the middle and with a rounded swelling each side. Elytra distinctly narrower than the pronotum. Length 2 mm. ....................................................

........... **Micropeplus staphylinoides**
Widespread and sometimes common; 63% of the records on the NBN site refer to this species with records from the south coast of England northwards to Orkney.

Middle ridge of the abdomen ending with an obtuse angle in about the middle of the fourth exposed tergite. Middle of the head with five rather indistinct furrows that converge towards the front. Elytra not much narrower than the pronotum. Length 2 mm. ....................................................

........... **Micropeplus fulvus**
Not uncommon. 22% of the records on the NBN site are of this species; widely distributed from the south coast of England to central Scotland.
4 Upper surface shining. Short, broader and more convex; brown to pitchy black. Head and the middle of the pronotum so coarsely punctured and densely rugose that the middle keel of the head and the ridges of the pronotum between the punctures are difficult to make out. Elytra not distinctly shagreened between the ridges. Length 1.7-2.0 mm. 

.......... *Micropeplus caelatus*
Rare; Ireland. No records on the NBN site.

Upper surface dull. More elongate and less convex. Head and the middle of the pronotum very finely rugose. Elytra more densely punctured between the ridges and clearly shagreened.

Length 2.0-2.5 mm.

.......... *Micropeplus porcatus*
Not common, local but widespread. 9% of the records on the NBN site are of this species, extending thinly from the coast of Kent northwards to the Orkneys and Outer Hebrides.
Illustrations of male aedeagus of *Micropeplus* species

Photographs from Tronquet (2007)

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