Subfamily OXYTELINAE
Key to British genera
Translated from the German by Mike Hackston from Dr Arved Lompe, his key derived from that of Lohse.

References
The source of this translation can be found at http://www.coleo-net.de/coleo/texte/oxytelinae.htm. The translation is reproduced here with the kind permission of Dr Arved Lompe. Supplementary information has been taken from Tottenham (1954), Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects volume 4:8a. For identification to species level, reference should be made to this text.

Checklist of genera

- ANOTYLUS Thomson, C.G., 1859
- APODERUS Stephens, 1833
- BLEDIUS Leach, 1819
- CARPELMUS Leach, 1819
- COPROPHILUS Latreille, 1829
- DELEASTER Erichson, 1839
- MANDA Blackwelder, 1952
- OCHTHEPHILUS Mulsant & Rey, 1856
- OXYTELUS Gravenhorst, 1802
- PLANEUSTOMUS Jacquelin du Val, 1857
- PLATYSTETHUS Mannerheim, 1830
- SYNTOMIUM Curtis, 1828
- TEROPALPS Solier, 1849
- THINOBUS Kiesenwetter, 1844
- THINODROMUS Kraatz, 1857

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Subfamily OXYTELINAE

Key to British genera

Translated from the German by Mike Hackston from Dr Arved Lompe, his key derived from that of Lohse.

Subfamily characteristics

Within the Staphylinae this subfamily is characterised by the presence of eight (rather than seven) abdominal segments present viewed from below. The antennae are inserted under a protrusion or ridge on the side-margin of the head. The head is elongated and also often as broad as the pronotum. The last segment of the labial palps is of the normal form. The front coxae are conical and peg-shaped; the middle coxae are close together; the hind coxae are broader than long, more or less extended backwards over the first abdominal segment. The trochanters of the hind leg are short, barely a fifth of the length of the femur. Tarsi are 3-segmented or (more rarely) 5-segmented. The side-margins of the exposed part of the abdomen have a clearly separated dorsal surface (except Deleaster and Syntomium).

1 Sides of the exposed part of the abdomen with a broad border with a sharp edge and without a horizontal ridge on top. Tarsi with five segments. Form as illustrated.

....................2

Diagrams from Lohse.

....................3

Sides of the exposed part of the abdomen blunt with a clearly defined upwardly slanting section sometimes with a horizontal ridge along the top. Tarsi with five or fewer segments. Appearance otherwise.

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2 Length 2-3 mm, convex, metallic. ................................................
........ Syntomium aeneum

Length over 5 mm, flattened. Reddish-brown in colour with a black head. ..........................................................
........ Deleaster dichrous
3 Tarsi of all legs consisting of five clearly visible segments or apparently five on the front legs and four segments on the others if the first segment of the middle and hind tarsi is very small. ..........................................................4

Number of segments of the tarsi from two to five. In species with four or five segmented tarsi, the first 2-3 segments are very small and appear to be one combined segment. ...............................................................5
4 Upper surface dark brown to black and hairless. Pronotum with paired longitudinal furrows towards the front and with a large deep depression each side before the base; sides of the pronotum toothed. ...........................................................

.......... *Coprophilus striatulus*

Upper surface hairy, orange-brown. Pronotum without furrows towards the front. .............................................

.......... *Manda mandibularis*
5 Front and middle tibiae armed with clear bristles on the outer surface, an adaptation to digging. ..........................................................................................6

Front and middle legs at most with hairs. ...........................................................11
6  Body very slender, yellowish. Usually under 3 mm (rarely up to 8 mm). Mandibles projecting, sickle-like. Tarsi 5-segmented although segments 1-3 are small and appear to be a single segment.

.......... Genus *Planeustomus*


Body less elongated, usually dark in colour. Mandibles seldom projecting. Tarsi usually with 3 segments. .........................................................................................................................7
7 Pronotum and elytra with a sculpture of longitudinal fissures and ridges. Basal furrows of abdominal segments 3-7 curving towards the apex of the segment as they near the sides. 

Pronotum without longitudinal sculpture. Basal furrows of abdominal segments 3-7 straight, remaining parallel to the base of the segment.
8 Scutellum with a diamond-shaped impression. First exposed abdominal segment with the curving basal furrow. First segment of the tarsi longer than the second. The space between the elytral suture and the sutural stria is smooth and glossy. ............................................................

......... Genus *Oxytelus*
5 British species. Diagrams of scutellum from Schülke.

Scutellum with an impression rather like a clover leaf. First exposed abdominal segment with a straight basal furrow. First and second tarsal segments equal in length. The space between the elytral suture and the sutural stria is as above or it contains a furrow running parallel to the suture; the suture therefore appears to be doubled. ............................................................

......... Genus *Anotylus*
14 British species.
9 Upper surface hairless or any hairs scarcely visible. Pronotum with a longitudinal furrow running along the middle line but without impressions at the side. Body more or less flat. Eyes not bulging. Tarsi 3-segmented. .................................................................

......... Genus *Platystethus*
7 British species

Upper surface with a distinct covering of hair although these may partly or almost completely rub off so that the beetle appears more or less hairless. If the pronotum has a longitudinal furrow along the mid-line the body is cylindrical and the eyes are bulging. .................................................................10
10 Body flattened and black. Pronotum with lateral longitudinal impressions but without a furrow along the mid-line. Tarsi 3-segmented. ..............................
......... *Aploderus caelatus*

Body cylindrical. Pronotum often with a furrow along the mid-line, but without distinct lateral impressions. Tarsi 3- or 4-segmented. ...............................................................
......... Genus *Bledius*

27 British species

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11 Last segment of the maxillary palps well developed, awl-shaped, at least as long as the previous segment. Pronotum with a curved transverse depression towards the base. Back inner corner of each elytron shortly rounded or right-angled. Elytra with differentiated epipleura. Tarsi 5-segmented although the first three segments are small and appear at first sight as a single segment. ......................................................

.......... Genus *Ochtheophilus*  
4 British species. Line drawing from Tottenham (1954)

Last segment of the maxillary palps small, often forming an inconspicuous needle-like point or absent altogether. ..............................................................12
12 Back inner corner of each elytron right-angled. Body somewhat convex. Elytra with the epipleura differentiated but very narrow. Pronotum often with lateral longitudinal impressions or a horseshoe-shaped impression towards the base. Tarsi 3- or 5-segmented. .................................................................13

Back inner corner of each elytron broadly rounded, not forming an angle, the elytra thus broadly separated at the base and exposing the wings. Elytra without differentiated epipleura. Tarsi 2-segmented. Small species, at most 2.25 mm. .................................

......... Genus Thinobius
7 British species. In tufts of grass and under stones by streams. Line drawing from Tottenham (1954)
13 Pronotum with a horseshoe-shaped impression towards the base. Body usually more broadly built. Tarsi 5-segmented, although the first three segments are small and appear to be a single segment. ........................................ Thinodromus arcuatus

Pronotum with lateral impressions, small depressions or completely smooth. Body slender. Tarsi 3-segmented or 5-segmented with the first three segments small, apparently making a single segment. .................................................................14
Head, pronotum and elytra dull due to a dense covering of extremely fine punctures and short hair. Pronotum more or less smooth with at most indistinct depressions. Length about 4 mm. Antennae with segments 2-4 often brownish and segments 1 and 5 onwards blackish; all segments elongate. Legs dark brownish-black with the tarsi reddish-brown. Tarsi 5-segmented with the first 3-4 segments small, apparently making a single segment, thus appearing two-segmented.

Teropalpus unicolor
Coastal species, recorded from southern England. Line drawing from Tottenham (1954).

Body dull or shining but without dense punctures and hair. Pronotum usually with distinct impressions. Length less than 4 mm. Tarsi 3-segmented.

Teropalpus unicolor
Coastal species, recorded from southern England. Line drawing from Tottenham (1954).

Genus Carpelimus
21 British species