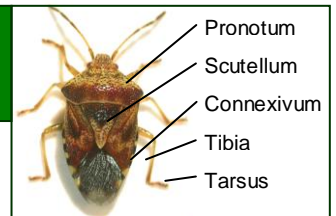


Colour guide to Cumbrian Shieldbugs

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 Images are not to scale



Largely bright green, with or without orange or pinkish markings.

Connexivum not obviously chequered (the Green Shieldbug may have narrow pale intervals in the generally dark connexivum, the other species in this section all have a uniformly pale connexivum).



Birch Shieldbug

9 mm long. Bright green shieldbug with orange-brown markings on the base of the pronotum and scutellum and along the inner margins of the wings. Common on birch catkins.



Hawthorn Shieldbug

Large, 14 mm. Bright green with orange-brown markings on base of pronotum and inner margins of the wings. The shoulders are extended into short, pointed spikes. The tip of the abdomen is often red. Widespread on hawthorn and whitebeam.



Juniper Shieldbug

9 mm long. Bright green with 'boomerang'-shaped orange markings on the inner margins of the wings. Local on native juniper among the fells. May also occur in gardens on juniper and related plants.



Green Shieldbug

Large (13 mm.), bright green shieldbug with slightly expanded shoulders. Connexivum with dense black punctures and narrow, pale intervals. Over-wintering adults are dark coloured. Rare but increasing - colonising south Cumbrian woodlands from Lancashire.



Gorse Shieldbug

12 mm. Long. Green shieldbug with yellow margin to pronotum and plain yellow connexivum. Antennae are red with darker tips. Gorse Shieldbugs are plain green in spring but the autumn generation of adults have obvious pinkish markings. Over-wintering adults are dark. Common and widespread on gorse and broom.

Largely black or shining blue/green



Scarab Shieldbug

A small (4 mm.), black beetle-like shieldbug. The scutellum is very large and almost entirely covers the abdomen. Rare in dry, coastal sand dunes.



Blue Shieldbug (also comes in green!)

A 5 mm. long, shining metallic blue or green shieldbug. Feeds on leaf-beetle larvae in dry situations, often on heathland and moorland. Widespread but local.



Cow-Wheat Shieldbug

5 mm. long. A black shieldbug with a cream margin and a pair of cream spots in the middle of the back. Feeds on Common Cow-wheat in open woodland. Very rare.

Brownish. Connexivum more or less chequered.



Hairy Shieldbug

12 mm long. Covered in fine, erect, hairs. Antennae with alternate dark and pale bands. Restricted to dry, coastal grassland and scrub.



Forest Bug

13 mm. long. Tip of scutellum, antennae and legs orange. Shoulders extended into squared-off processes. Common in woods.



Bronze Shieldbug

12 mm. long. Scutellum without pale tip, legs with dark speckles and bands. Shoulders developed into blunt-ended processes. Increasingly common in woodland.



Parent Bug

7 mm. long. Brown, orange or olive-green with darker mottling. Shoulders without obvious projections. Tarsi with two segments. Common on birch catkins.

orange form



Spiked Shieldbug

A 12 mm. long, Brownish-bronze shieldbug. The shoulders are produced into sharp, thorn-like points. The antennae, legs and tip of the scutellum are orange. The tibiae have a pale band in the middle. Widespread in rank, marshy grassland and wet heathland.



Heather Shieldbug

8 mm. long. Bronze-coloured with metallic reflections. Shoulders not obviously extended. Legs dark with pale bands on the tibia. Local on lowland mosses and heathland.

Nymphs Shieldbug nymphs shed their skin several times as they grow to adulthood. Each nymphal stage is called an instar.



Birch Shieldbug nymphal instars



Bronze Shieldbug nymphs



Hawthorn Shieldbug nymphs



Hairy Shieldbug



Parent Bug



Juniper Shieldbug



Spiked Shieldbug



Green Shieldbug early instar



Forest Bug



Gorse Shieldbug