

Notiophilus aesthuans Mountain Springtail-stalker

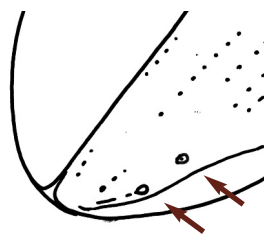
Second elytral interval about equal to the width of the 3rd, 4th and 5th combined.

Legs are completely black (check by holding specimen against light). Separated from *aquaticus* by having **two pre-apical punctures on the elytra**. Narrower general appearance than *germinyi*. Hind-wings present.

A rare upland species found on dry, open habitats in northern England, Wales and Scotland. Also occurs in Northern Ireland. Very rare on lowland heaths in the south.



4 - 5.5 mm



Elytra showing two pre-apical punctures.



Notiophilus aesthuans
Mountain Springtail-stalker

Notiophilus germinyi Heath Springtail-stalker

Second elytral interval about equal to the width of the 3rd, 4th and 5th combined.

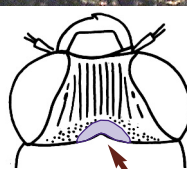
Legs have pale tibiae. Separated from *palustris* by the **parallel ridges on the head** and the **wide unpunctured area at the base of the head**. Width of head (including eyes) about equal to width of pronotum. Hind-wings not always present.

Melanic individuals occur, the legs in these individuals have the **middle of the tibiae very dark rufous**, not black. These can cause confusion with *aesthuans*. The pattern of ridges and puncturation on the head is similar in both species so **careful examination of the tibiae is essential** (check by holding specimen against light). Has **deeper striae** and **more convex elytral intervals** than *aesthuans* (this feature is best seen when directly comparing the two species). Individuals found in upland areas (often in the same areas as *aesthuans*) are often melanic.

Widespread and locally common on heaths, moors and grasslands.



4.5 - 5.5 mm



Ridges on head almost parallel. Unpunctured area at base of head wide (arrowed). This can be wider than shown.



Notiophilus germinyi
Heath Springtail-stalker

Notiophilus palustris Rough-necked Springtail-stalker

Second elytral interval about equal to the width of the 3rd, 4th and 5th combined.

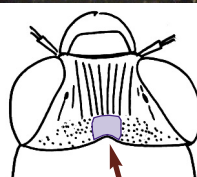
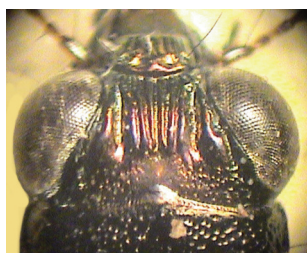
Legs have pale tibiae. Separated from *Notiophilus germinyi* by the **forward diverging ridges on the head** and the **small unpunctured area at the base of the head**. Width of head (including eyes) slightly wider than width of pronotum. Hind-wings usually absent.

Melanic individuals occur, the legs in these individuals have the **middle of the tibiae very dark rufous**, not black. **Melanic individuals** are separated from *aesthuans* by the **forward diverging ridges** and the pattern of puncturation at the base of the head.

Widespread and locally common on heaths, moors and grasslands.



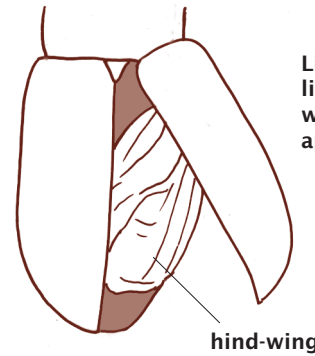
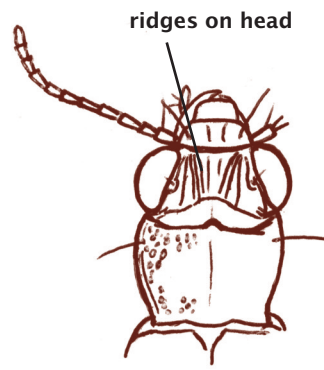
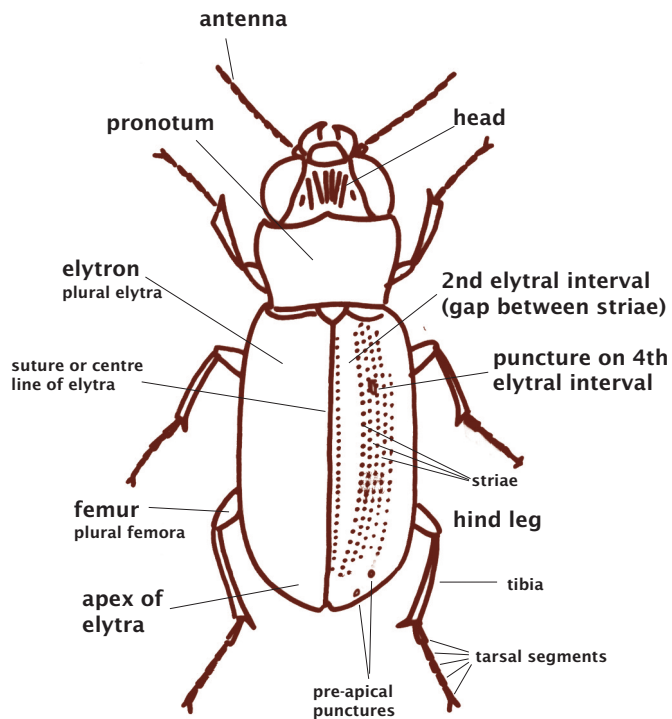
5 - 6 mm



Ridges on head diverge forwards. Unpunctured area at base of head small (arrowed).



Notiophilus palustris
Rough-necked Springtail-stalker

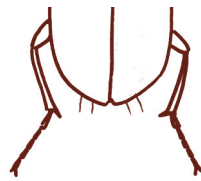


Lifting up the elytron like this is the best way to check if the apex is pale or dark.

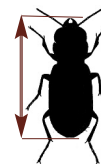
Elytron lifted to reveal folded hind-wing



Male has 2 stout hairs at the apex of elytra



Female has 4 stout hairs at the apex of elytra



length (mm)



Notiophilus aquaticus
Black-legged Springtail-stalker

Recommended books on British ground beetles

Martin Luff (2007). *The Carabidae (ground beetles) of Britain and Ireland, Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects, Vol.4, Part 2 (2nd Edition)*. St. Albans: Royal Entomological Society ISBN 978 090154 686 9

The essential guide to the identification of all the British species.

Martin Luff (1998). *Provisional atlas of the ground beetles (Coleoptera, Carabidae) of Britain*. Huntingdon, Biological Records Centre ISBN 1 870393 41 4

Distribution maps of all the British species. An excellent aid when attempting to identify ground beetles.