**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.

**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.

**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.
Recommended books on British ground beetles


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.

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**Notiophilus aquaticus**
Black-legged Springtail-stalker