These are small ground beetles 5.5 - 8.5 mm long with metallic upperparts which inhabit saltmarsh and other coastal habitats. They are winged and capable of flight. These beetles can produce a foul-smelling liquid when handled. This guide enables the identification of the three British species.

**Pogonus luridipennis** Yellow-backed Driftliner

Separated from the other two species by its bi-coloured appearance with dark metallic green head and pronotum and yellow-brown elytra. Legs and antennae are reddish-brown. A very distinctive species unlikely to be mistaken for any other British ground beetle.

A scarce and local beetle found in saltmarsh habitats, often associated with clay, in Lincolnshire, North Norfolk and Dorset. It seems to have declined in recent years. There are old records from Devon, East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Hampshire.

**Pogonus chalceus** Punctate Driftliner

Uniformly dark metallic green. The pronotum has evenly spaced pits at base and a few pits near the front edge. All elytral striae fainter towards the apex. Elytra slightly shorter and more rounded at sides. On average slightly smaller than littoralis.

A common species in saltmarsh and other coastal habitats in England and Wales. Occurs in lower saltmarsh zones than littoralis.

**Pogonus littoralis** Wrinkled Driftliner

Similar to chalceus but the pits at the base of the pronotum are formed into longitudinal ridges in the middle. There are no pits near the front edge of the pronotum. All elytral striae distinct to apex, not fading at all. Elytra longer, more parallel-sided. On average slightly larger than chalceus.

A scarce species in upper saltmarsh habitats between Lincolnshire and Glamorgan.
Finding Pogonus

These beetles can be found under stones and seaweed in saltmarsh habitats.

They are active between March and October but can also be found during the winter.

Typical Pogonus habitat in north Norfolk.

Tilting the beetle to view the striae on the apex of elytra - *Pogonus littoralis*.

**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*, Biological Records Centre ISBN 1 870393 41 4  
Distribution maps of all the British species. An excellent aid when attempting to identify ground beetles.

Thanks to Oxford University Museum of Natural History for help during the preparation of this guide.