

# Guides to British Beetles

## 12. *Patrobus* Pinchnecks Ground Beetles (Coleoptera; Carabidae)



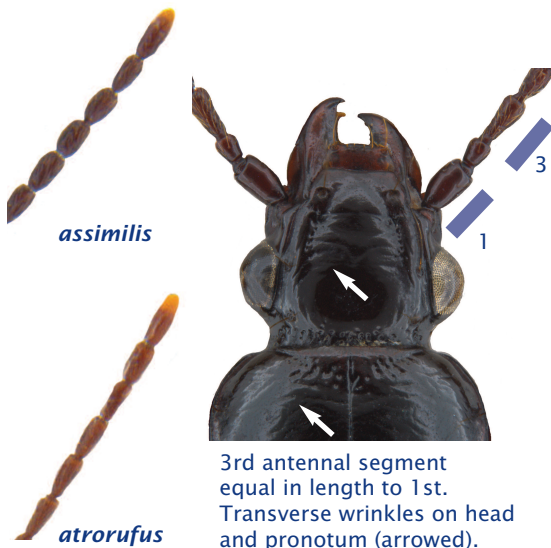
These beetles are similar in appearance to small *Pterostichus* but can be distinguished by the constricted neck and the pubescence on the 3rd antennal segment. *Pterostichus* species lack the constricted neck and have a 3rd antennal segment which is glabrous except for the usual longer setae.

This guide will enable identification of the three *Patrobus* found in Britain.

### *Patrobus assimilis* Northern Pinchneck

Similar to *atrорufus* but with the 3rd antennal segment as long as the 1st. Antennal segments compact and rounded. The raised area between the frontal furrow and the side margin of the frons is parallel sided. Head and pronotum with transverse wrinkles. Hind-wings not fully developed, only about half as long as the elytra.

A northern and upland species found in Wales, northern England and Scotland. It occurs on moorland and upland grassland and a wider range of open habitats. It can be found at lower altitudes in Scotland.



3rd antennal segment equal in length to 1st. Transverse wrinkles on head and pronotum (arrowed).



6.5 - 10 mm



The constricted neck is an abrupt narrowing of the neck just behind the eyes (as though it is showing the marks of having been strangled!). The constriction is also marked by a scattered line of punctures.

All species have a shiny appearance with coarse punctures in the neck constriction and on the pronotum. There are a pair of deep fovea at the base of the pronotum.

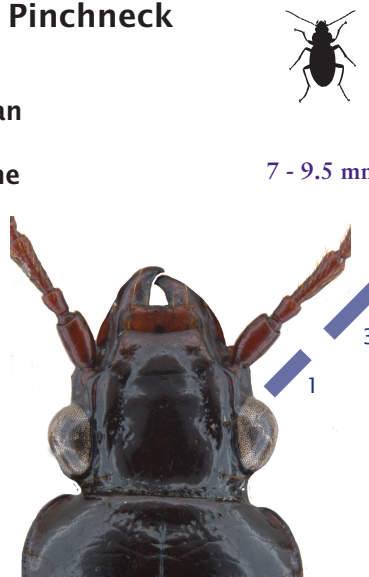


*Patrobus assimilis* Northern Pinchneck

### *Patrobus atrorufus* Common Pinchneck

Similar to *assimilis* but with the 3rd antennal segment clearly longer than the 1st. Antennal segments more elongate. The raised area between the frontal furrow and the side margin of the frons widens forwards. Head and pronotum without transverse wrinkles or they are very faint. Hind-wings not fully developed, only about half as long as the elytra.

A widespread species in England and Wales, scarcer and more localised in Scotland. Found in woodlands and shady or damp grasslands.



3rd antennal segment longer than 1st.



7 - 9.5 mm



*Patrobus atrorufus* Common Pinchneck

# *Patrobus septentrionis* Winged Pinchneck

Separated from other *Patrobus* by having **fully developed hind-wings**. It is typically **larger and more elongate** than *Patrobus assimilis*. It often has reddish elytra but colour varies and it can be uniformly blackish brown.

A montane species typically occurring on the barer ground of summit plateaux and around snow-patches, often outnumbered by *Patrobus assimilis*. Mainly restricted to the Highlands and islands of Scotland with a few records from northern England.



7.5 - 10 mm



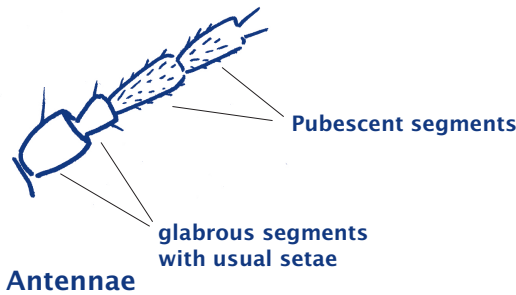
*septentrionis*

*assimilis*

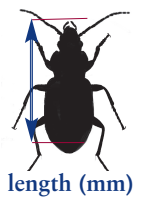
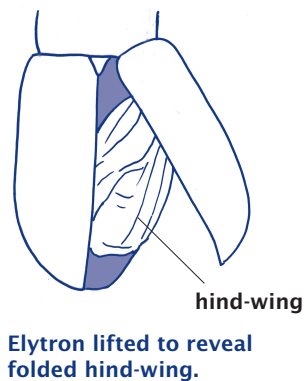
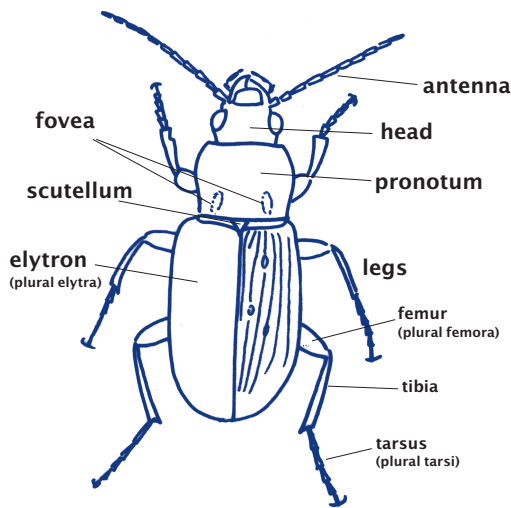
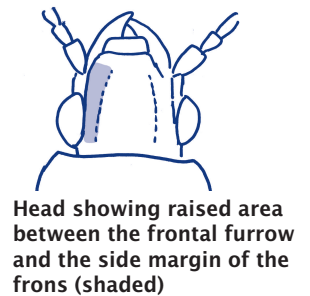
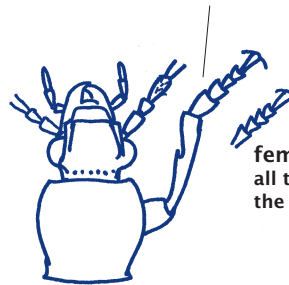


*Patrobus septentrionis* Winged Pinchneck

More elongate shape compared to *Patrobus assimilis*



male  
first 2 segments of tarsi wider than 4th and 5th



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