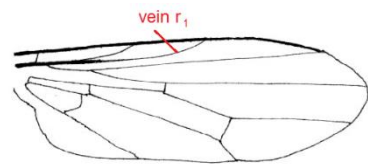


Family Ulidiidae

This key is an adaptation of my translation of Hennig, W. (1939) 46/47. Otitidae. In: E. Lindner (ed.). Die Fliegen der palaearktischen Region, 5(1). It takes into account changes in nomenclature and is restricted to the British fauna as listed on the Dipterists Forum website.

Key to UK subfamilies

- 1 Vein r_1 bare or if with bristles (genus *Homalocephala*), then no bristles present on the mesopleura (only pale silky hairs, the same thickness as those covering the mesonotum). Male with aedeagus bare.
..... **Subfamily Ulidiinae**



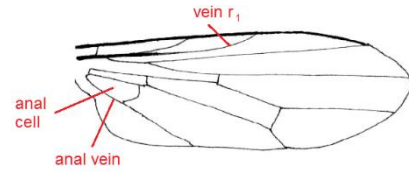
Vein r_1 with hairs or bristles, or if bare, (*Seioptera vibrans*) then mesopleurals absent and 2 sternopleurals present; at least one bristle present on the mesopleura. Male with aedeagus at least hairy.....
..... **Subfamily Otitinae**

It is the form of the aedeagus of the male reproductive system that gives the key difference between the subfamilies. It is bare in Ulidiinae and at least hairy in Otitinae.

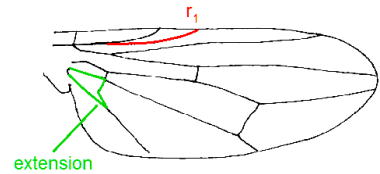


Subfamily Ulidiinae - key to UK genera and species

- 1 Vein r_1 with bristles; anal cell without a pointed extension along the anal vein. Length 4-5 mm.2
Tribe Euxestini



- Vein r_1 bare; anal cell with a clear pointed extension along the anal vein.3
Tribe Ulidiini

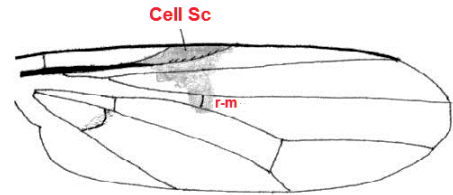


- 2 The brown colouration in cell Sc is restricted to this cell, and does not extend to cross-vein r-m. Legs completely reddish.
..... ***Homalocephala albitarsis***

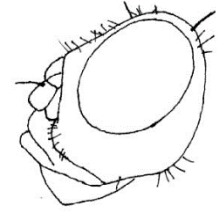
The brown coloration in cell Sc extends from this cell to r-m. Legs dark-brown to black apart from the front coxa and the first and the base of the second tarsal segment of all legs which are yellowish.

..... ***Homalocephala biumbrata***

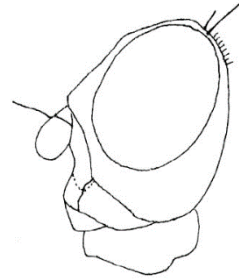
Northern Scotland. Larvae develop under the bark of fallen aspen and recently bred from an introduced poplar species.



- 3 Antennae in deep excavations which are sharply defined at their edge.
..... ***Ulidia erythropthalma***

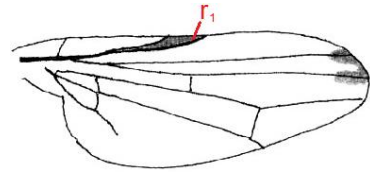


- Antennal excavations very shallow, with unclear border.
..... ***Physiphora alceae***

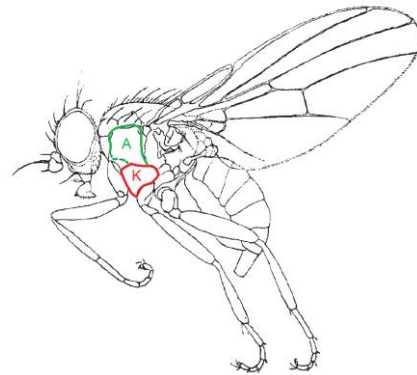


Subfamily Otitinae - key to UK genera and species

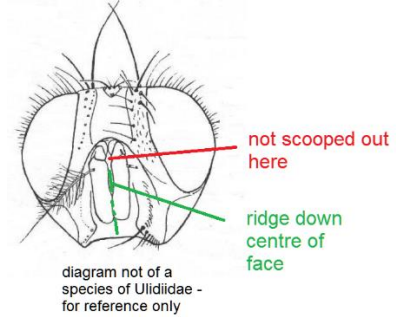
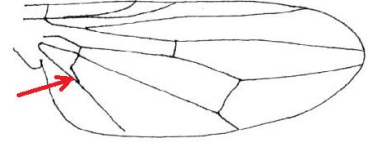
- 1 Vein r_1 bare. No bristles on the anepisternum (A) and 2 bristles on the katepisternum (K). Length 5-6 mm.
..... ***Seioptera vibrans***



Vein r_1 with hairs or bristles. Bristles present on the anepisternum and with a single bristle on the katepisternum[2](#)



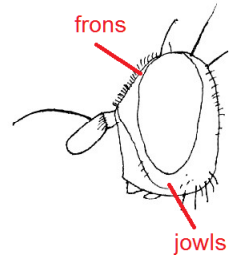
- 2 Facial keel absent; no clearly defined excavations at the antennal base. Anal cell with a long extension along the anal vein. Length 3-5 mm.
 ***Myennis octopunctata***



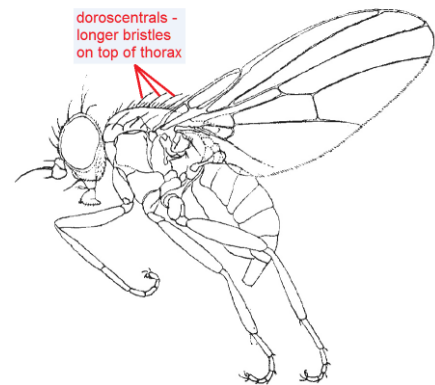
Facial keel and antennal excavations present. Anal cell with only a short extension along the anal vein.3



- 3 Frons and jowls narrow. Frons at the vertex not as broad as the distance of the front ocellus from the front margin of the frons. The breadth of the jowls is between a sixth and a quarter of the vertical diameter of the eye. 2 dorsocentrals (rarely fewer, never more).4



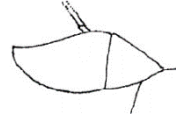
Jowls at least as broad as one third of the vertical diameter of an eye.5



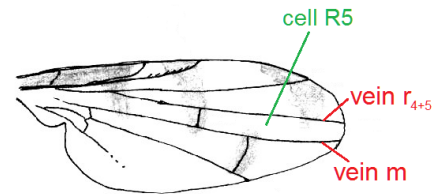
- 4 Veins r_{4+5} and m clearly convergent apically, so that cell R5 is narrowed. Third antennal segment clearly concave above, with a sharp point. Larger species (6-8 mm.).

..... ***Ceroxys urticae***

From Yorkshire southwards, with some preference to coastal habitats.

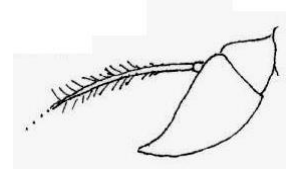


Veins r_{4+5} and m parallel apically. Third antennal segment not concave on the upper surface, but commonly with a clear, although not very sharp point. Smaller species (2-4.5 mm.). (Genus *Herina*).11



5 Third antennal segment concave on the upper surface, with a sharp point apically. (Genus *Melieria*).8

Distance from the anterior ocellus to the front margin of the frons about equal to the width of the frons at the vertex or a little more. Eyes vertical-elliptical. The breadth of the jowls is between one-third and a half of the vertical diameter of the eye. 5 strong dorsocentrals are present, one of which is presutural; although other bristles are present in the same row they are not clearly distinguishable from the general bristles on the thorax.



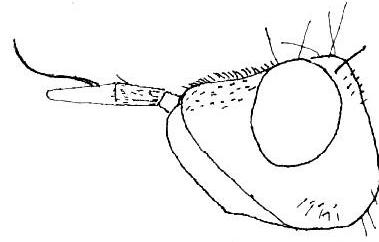
Third antennal segment convex above, always rounded apically, thereby being more or less elliptical.6



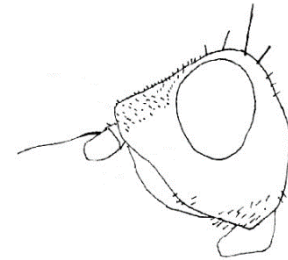
- 6 Antennae noticeably elongated, second segment always longer than the first; third segment clearly narrowing apically, in the shape of an elongated triangle. Length 6-8 mm.

..... ***Dorycera graminum***

Widely distributed in England but only frequently recorded in the south east.



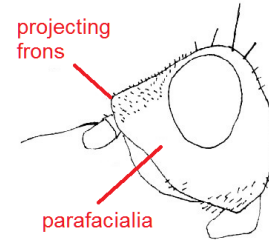
Antennae not elongated, with the second segment not considerably longer than the first; third segment elliptical, not narrowing apically.[7](#)



- 7 Head more or less triangular, with a projecting frons and receding face. Parafacialia noticeably broad, almost half the horizontal diameter of an eye. Length 5-8 mm.

..... ***Tetanops myopinus***

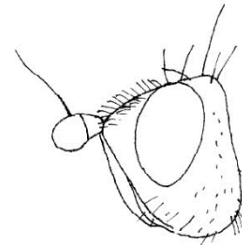
Coastal dunes in England and Wales. Very local.



Lower head margin more convex than straight. Parafacialia not particularly broad, less than half the horizontal diameter of an eye. Length 5-7 mm.

..... ***Otites guttatus***

Widespread but local in England and Wales.



Genus *Meliera*

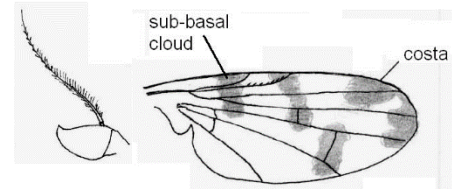
8 Third segment of the antennae reddish yellow.[9](#)
Third segment of the antennae darkened.[10](#)



- 9 Abdominal segments viewed from above with the rear margin brown. Third segment of the antennae relatively short. The sub-basal transverse stripe on the wing extends to the costa. Length 6-9 mm.

..... ***Meliera crassipennis***

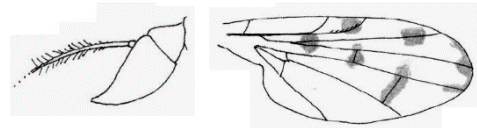
Widely distributed in England and Wales; few records from Scotland.



Abdominal segments not edged brown. Third segment of the antennae slightly sickle-shaped. Sub-basal transverse band on wing does not reach the costa. Length 6-9 mm.

..... ***Meliera omissa***

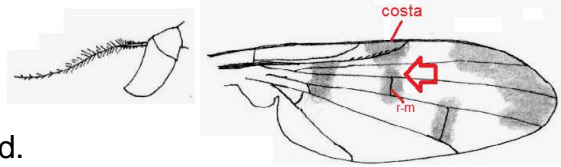
Widely distributed in England and Wales but with a distinct preference to coastal habitats.



10 Abdominal tergites with brown posterior borders. The brown colouring on the wings is very clear; between cross-vein r-m and the costa is a continuous brown transverse mark. Length 5-6 mm. Antenna as illustrated.

..... ***Melieria picta***

Most records coastal, from south Wales round to the Humber.



Abdominal tergites without brown edge. The brown patch over cross-vein r-m is clearly separated from the brown area extending along the costa at the front of the wing. Length 4-6 mm. Antenna as illustrated.

..... ***Melieria cana***

Coastal species from the Solway Firth southwards and on the east coast north to the Humber.



Genus Herina

11 Wings with a pair of transverse brown stripes, each divided partly in two; the basal stripe merges on vein cu, while the apical stripe merges on the front of the wing. Length 3-4 mm.



..... ***Herina frondescentiae***

Widely distributed through Great Britain and common in some areas.

Wings with few brown patches, usually restricted to a patch across the cross-veins and an area near the tip.12



12 Lower face shining black. [13](#)
Lower face reddish-yellow. [15](#)



13 Frontal stripe velvet-black. Third segment of the antennae long and strap-like, without a point. Length 3-4 mm.....
..... ***Herina paludum***

Rare. The frontal stripe is the central area of the head between the eyes when viewed from above.



Frontal stripe always more or less red.14



14 Third segment of the antennae with a fairly clear point on the upper surface. Wing not noticeably narrow. Length 3-4 mm.
..... ***Herina palustris***
Uncommon with records being coastal or inland marshland.



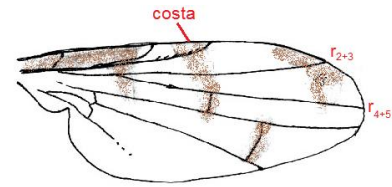
Third segment of the antennae without a point or a clearly defined corner, being completely rounded. Wing noticeably narrow. Length 2-3.5 mm.
..... ***Herina oscillans***
Very uncommon.



15 Third segment of the antennae pointed at the tip. The brown patch near the tip of the wing is joined to the brown patch around the junction of vein r_{2+3} and the costa; the brown patch over cross-vein r-m extends as a continuous band forward to the costa. Length 4.0-4.5 mm.

..... ***Herina lugubris***

Widespread in England; mostly coastal in Wales.



Third segment of the antennae rounded at the tip. The brown patch near the tip of the wing over vein r_{4+5} is separated from the patch over the junction of r_{2+3} with the costa; the cloud over r-m is separated from the cloud on the base of the front of the wing (along the costa). Length 3.5-4.5 mm.

..... ***Herina nigrina***

Widespread and fairly common in England and Wales.

