

# Aquatic Heteroptera (Water bugs)

A. NUMBER OF SPECIES IN UK: 68

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B. NUMBER OF SPECIES IN SCOTLAND: 42

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C. EXPERT CONTACTS

Please contact [scotland@buglife.org.uk](mailto:scotland@buglife.org.uk) for details.

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D. SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

Listed species

*Corixa iberica* notable  
Found in north and western Scotland.

Other species

*Glaenocorisa propinqua propinqua*, *G. propinqua cavifrons*, *Arctocorisa carinata*, *Callicorixa wollastoni*, *Velia saulii*, *Gerris costae* are all mainly northern/upland species.

Source: i) Kirby, P. 1992. *A review of the scarce and threatened Hemiptera of Great Britain*. UK Nature Conservation No. 2. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

ii) Angus, R. 2006. *Corixa iberica* in Scotland and Spain. *Het News*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series, No.7, Spring 2008

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E. LIST OF SPECIES KNOWN FROM SCOTLAND

(\* indicates species that are restricted to Scotland in UK context)

**Nepidae**

*Nepa cinerea*

**Corixidae**

*Cymatia bondsdorffii*  
*Glaenocorisa propinqua propinqua*  
*Glaenocorisa propinqua cavifrons*

*Arctocorisa carinata*  
*Arctocorisa germari*  
*Callicorixa praeusta*  
*Callicorixa wollastoni*  
*Corixa dentipes*  
*Corixa iberica\**  
*Corixa panzeri*  
*Corixa punctata*  
*Hesperocorixa castanea*  
*Hesperocorixa linnaei*  
*Hesperocorixa sahlbergi*  
*Paracorixa concinna*  
*Sigara nigrolineata*  
*Sigara limitata*  
*Sigara semistriata*  
*Sigara venusta*  
*Sigara dorsalis*  
*Sigara distincta*  
*Sigara falleni*  
*Sigara fossarum*  
*Sigara scotti*  
*Sigara stagnalis*  
*Sigara lateralis*

**Aphelocheiridae**

*Aphelocheirus aestivalis*

**Notonectidae**

*Notonecta glauca*  
*Notonecta obliqua*

**Pleidae**

*Plea minutissima*

**Hebridae**

*Hebrus ruficeps*

**Hydrometridae**

*Hydrometra stagnalis*

**Veliidae**

*Microvelia reticulata*  
*Velia capri*  
*Velia saulii*

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## Gerridae

*Aquarius najas*  
*Gerris costae*  
*Gerris gibbifer*  
*Gerris lacustris*  
*Gerris odontogaster*  
*Gerris throacicus*  
*Gerris lateralis*

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## F. DISTRIBUTION DATA

- i) Data collated by Aquatic Heteroptera Recording Scheme is available on the NBN Gateway.
  - ii) SEPA collects and identifies water bugs as part of their routine water quality monitoring.
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## G. IDENTIFICATION GUIDES

- i) Savage, A.A. 1989. *Adults of the British Hemiptera Heteroptera: a Key with Biological Notes*. Freshwater Biological Association Scientific Publication No. 50. Freshwater Biological Association.
  - ii) Savage, A.A. 1999. *Keys to the Larvae of British Corixidae*. Freshwater Biological Association Scientific Publication No. 57. Freshwater Biological Association.
  - iii) Huxley, T. 2003. *Provisional atlas of the British aquatic bugs (Hemiptera, Heteroptera)*. Biological Records Centre, Huntingdon.
  - iv) Huxley, T. 2004. *The Water Bugs of Fife & Kinross (Vice-county 85)*. Fife Environmental Recording Network, Fife Council.
  - v) Nau, B.S. 2010 (unpublished). *Draft Keys to Aquatic & Semi-aquatic Heteroptera*.
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## H. OTHER INFORMATION

- a) No published up to date key available.
- b) One *S. stagnalis* record from 1946 from Wigtown.
- c) Two records of *S. limitata* remote from, and much further north than any others are being queried, with no clarification so far. Thomas Huxley did undertake a lot of fieldwork in central Scotland prior to publication of the Provisional atlas, and never found *S. limitata*.
- d) The *Glaenocoris propinqua* sub-species, *G. p. propinqua* and *G. p. cavifrons*, have sometimes been treated as species *G. propinqua* and *G. Cavifrons*. However Jansson, in *Catalogue of the Heteroptera of the Palaearctic region* ed. Aukema & Rieger (1995), treats them as sub-species and this is now accepted practice. It is recommended that records should specify the sub-species where possible.
- e) Some species are moving north and are very close to Scotland: *Ranatra linearis*, *Cymatia coleoptrata* and *Notonecta viridis*. Two records of the latter by NPMN are on the NBN Gateway. One has an incorrect grid reference and the site is actually in England. The other is from Red Moss of Balerno NM635765 and no specimen is

available. This record should therefore be treated as provisional at the moment, although the recorder is experienced. There is also one record of *Mesovelgia furcata* on NBN Gateway, in Union Canal, Hailes Park NT206702 (recorded by SEPA) – however, examination of specimens revealed that this record is incorrect, and were misidentified *Velia* sp. nymphs.

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This document provides information on species known to occur in Scotland at the time of publication. This document does not provide a definitive list of species occurring in Scotland. The list of species known to occur in Scotland may change as further information is gathered.

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**ISI**  
Initiative for  
Scottish Invertebrates

