

# Spiked Shieldbug

## *Picromerus bidens*

### **Identification:**

Shieldbugs have a distinctive shape (and an even more distinctive smell if handled - they are not called 'stinkbugs' for nothing!). This large species (11-14 mm) is mainly brownish with a paler yellow or orange spot in the middle of the back. The important feature for certain identification is the very sharply pointed spine on each shoulder.

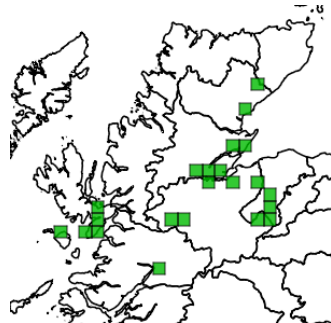


Spiked Shieldbug.

[Photo](#) © Tomasz Górny.

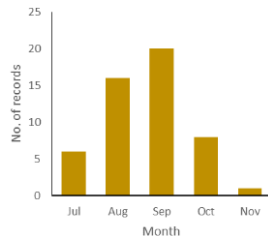
### **Distribution:**

It has been found across our area apart from the north-west, but is never common.



### **When to look for it:**

The Spiked Shieldbug begins to show itself in July, and can be found until early November.



### **Similar species:**

The much commoner Forest Bug *Pentatoma rufipes* has a similar pattern, but its shoulders are blunt and squared-off.

### **Notes:**

The Spiked Shieldbug is one of our few carnivorous species, and is often seen dining on other insects.