

Hawthorn Shieldbug

Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale

Identification:

Shieldbugs as a group are easily recognised from the shape, and the strong odour they release when disturbed. This one is distinguished by the combination of pointed red-tipped shoulders, green scutellum, and the brownish 'X' formed by the wing membranes.

Distribution:

This insect may have spread north into Highland recently. Blue <2009, green 2009 on.

When to look for it:

March to November, but mainly from June to October.

Similar Species:

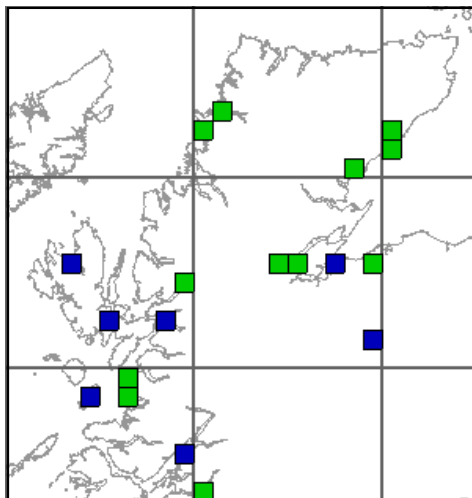
The common Birch Shieldbug *Elasmotethus interstinctus* has red on the scutellum, and is smaller and more compact. Other species which might be confused are the Juniper, Gorse and Green Shieldbugs (found once in Highland), which have rounded shoulders and different pattern.

Notes:

Despite its name, the Hawthorn Shieldbug is most often found on Rowan. The young insects (nymphs) are very different from adults and confusingly variable, and should not be identified without reference to a specialist. An excellent site to learn about shieldbugs is www.britishbugs.org.uk.



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