

# Spiked Shieldbug

*Picromerus bidens*



## Identification:

Shieldbugs have a distinctive shape (and an even more distinctive smell if handled - they are not called 'stink-bugs' 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 to see for certain identification is the very sharply pointed spine on each shoulder.

## Distribution:

This insect seems to have colonised and spread widely in Highland recently (blue <2006, green 2006 on).



Spiked Shieldbug *Picromerus bidens*

Photo © Tomasz Górný.  
[http://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fil:IMG\\_0447\\_pluszwiak.JPG](http://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fil:IMG_0447_pluszwiak.JPG).

## When to look for it:

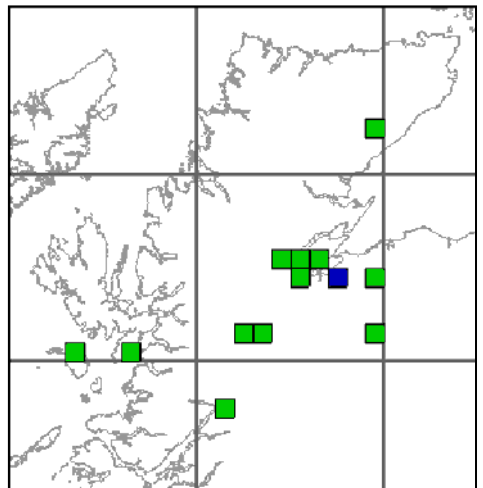
Adults are seen from July to October.

## 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. The Forest Bug is vegetarian.



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