

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.

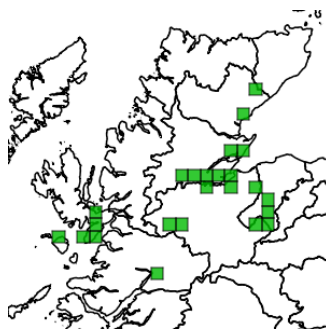


Spiked Shieldbug.

[Photo](#) © Tomasz Górny.

Distribution:

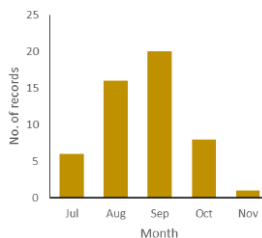
It has been found across our area apart from the north-west, but is never common.



Distribution of records of the Spiked Shieldbug in the HBRG database.

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.