

Bee-beetle

Trichius fasciatus

Identification:

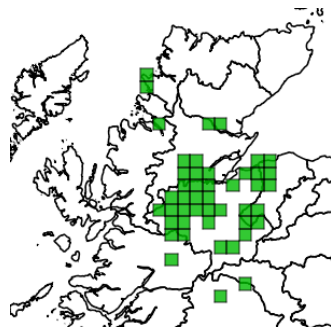
At 10mm or more long and strikingly marked, the Bee Beetle is easily spotted, although often the head is buried in the flowers and all that is visible are the unmistakable pale brown and black wing cases.



Bee-beetle *Trichius fasciatus*.
Photo © Murdo Macdonald.

Distribution:

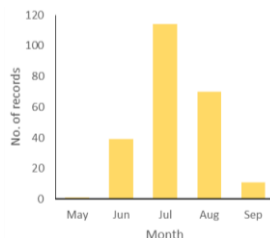
It is not uncommon in the eastern part of our area, but even there we have significant gaps in the map.



The distribution of records of the Bee-beetle in the HBRG database.

When to look for it:

Most records are in July and August, but extend from May to September. Good places to search on are Hogweed and various thistles, though it will feed at a wide range of flowers.



Similar species:

The imported *T. rosaceus* has been recorded intermittently in England. That has a pinkish tail, and a wide gap in the front black band (two large dots rather than a black band).

Notes:

The larvae develop in dead birch stumps. The beetle has a very disjunct distribution on Britain, in the Scottish Highlands, and in Wales.