

Survey Guide

Beachcomber Beetle – *Eurynebria complanata*

Description:

- It can be up to 24mm long. Its body and legs are a yellow/brown, sandy colour, and it has black zig-zag markings on its elytra.
- It has a rather flattened appearance with long legs. It is a fast runner, capable of moving long distances along the strandline.
- Beetles are often found alone or in small groups (1-10), but can be found in much larger aggregations.

Habitat:

- By day, the beetles can be found sheltering beneath large debris on the strandlines of broad sandy beaches which back onto sand dunes. This can include natural driftwood as well as plastic items, such as large plastic drums or fishing crates.

Confusable species:

- There are no beach living species with which this species should be confused with. If the habitat and appearance of the beetle are as described, you can be confident that it is a beachcomber beetle.

Survey methods:

- Beetles have been found from May until October, and so this should be the focus of survey effort.
- Beaches should be surveyed during the day. Driftwood and other beach debris can be carefully lifted to search for any beetles sheltering underneath.
- Nocturnal survey is also possible, when the beetles are hunting on the beach, but the lack of visibility (and the speed of the beetle) will make this more challenging.

What to record:

- Number of beetles seen
- Location (grid reference or GPS if possible)
- Take photos if possible of the beetles and the habitat
- Condition of the site – availability of driftwood and beach debris

