

Key to the genus *Neoleria* (Heleomyzidae)

1. Thoracic dorsum plain grey to blackish, no obvious stripes

2



- Thoracic dorsum with stripes

3



2. Humeri and scutellum usually yellow, contrasting with the rest of the thorax; occasional dark individuals turn up, grey all over. An inland species associated with carrion within woodland, found from spring through to late autumn.

inscripta



Dark individual

- A rarely recorded species associated with guano deposits on northern sea-cliffs . No photos available for comparison, but said to have the unstriped thorax dark grey to blackish, the 3rd antennal segment very dark and the anterior dorsocentrals weaker and shorter than the posterior. Frons dark above the level of the posterior fronto-orbital bristle.

prominens

3. Hind femur with 1 or 2 anterodorsal bristles in the apical half.

4



- Hind femur without anterodorsal bristles in apical half.

5



4. No bristles on the anepisternum. Usually one strong anterodorsal bristle on hind femur (can be two). A species of woodland associated with fungi. **ruficeps**



- Two bristles on hind margin of anepisternum, one stronger than the other. Usually two strong anterodorsal bristles on hind femur. Strictly coastal species. **maritima**



5. Thorax grey; dorsocentrals sit on dark spots outside of two dark central stripes. Male has a ventral-apical peg on the hind basitarsus. Frons is extensively orange. General appearance is of a grey/orange species with round, orange third antennal segment. A species associated with carrion in winter, with most records between December and March. **propinqua**



- Thorax brown-grey; dorsocentrals sit on pale stripes outside of two darker central stripes. Frons usually darker, with the orange duller and less extensive at sides of ocellar triangle. No peg on male hind basitarsus. Carrion species of spring to early summer mainly. **ruficauda**



***Neoleria inscripta* (Meigen 1830)**

A common species around carrion from spring to late autumn, with recent records from corpses of badger, fallow deer, hedgehog, pheasant, rabbit, roe deer, rook, squirrel, wallaby.



Neoleria maritima (Villeneuve 1921)

A scarce species of coastal habitats around the UK, but perhaps more common in the north. Adults have been reared from the snail *Cepaea nemoralis* in sand dunes in Northumberland. Most records from autumn.



Photo © Martin Elkins



Photo © Martin Elkins



Neoleria propinqua Collin 1943

Formerly considered pNear Threatened due to a lack of targeted recording outside of the spring and summer, but in fact not uncommon on carrion through the winter across the UK, with most records from December to March. Recent records from corpses of Badger, Fallow Deer, Hare, Pheasant, Roe Deer.



***Neoleria ruficauda* (Zetterstedt, 1847)**

A common species of woodland associated with carrion, generally appearing a little later than *propinqua*, from March through to October. Recent records from Badger, Chicken, Fallow Deer, Fox, Mallard, Pheasant, Pig, Roe Deer .



Neoleria ruficeps (Zetterstedt, 1838)

An uncommonly recorded species of woodland, possibly associated with fungi. Most records are from September to November.

