

## A QUICK IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO BRITISH CORIXID SPECIES

This guide will identify the majority of British species but should not be seen as a substitute for a complete key to these bugs. It is merely a short cut to the males of most common species. It is always worthwhile checking the genitalia and head shapes whilst building up a working knowledge of the 28 British species.

Adrian Chalkley 2008

- 1** Check the tarsus of the front leg (This is called the **Pala**, plural **Palae**). Is it flat with rows(s) of pegs? Then you have a male of the **Corixinae** **GO TO 3**

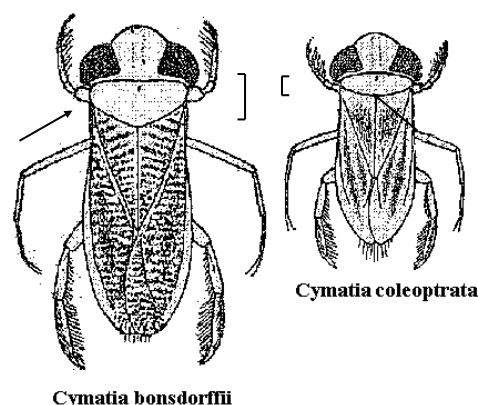
Check the tarsus of the front leg, is it long & cylindrical with hairs or bristles protruding, like a 'Bottle brush'? You have **Cymatia**, compare with pictures below to identify the 3 species. **GO TO 2**

If neither of the above apply then please use the full key.

- 2** **Cymatia** 2 common species, 1 recent introduction  
**Cymatia coleoptrata** has a pronotum (the segment behind the head) which is shorter than the head length with short sides. It has distinctive longitudinal lines down the outside margin of the wing cases (the hemielytra)

**Cymatia bondsdorffii** has a pronotum with longer sides and as long as the head. It has no distinctive lines down the outside margin of the hemielytra which are mottled in broken horizontal lines.

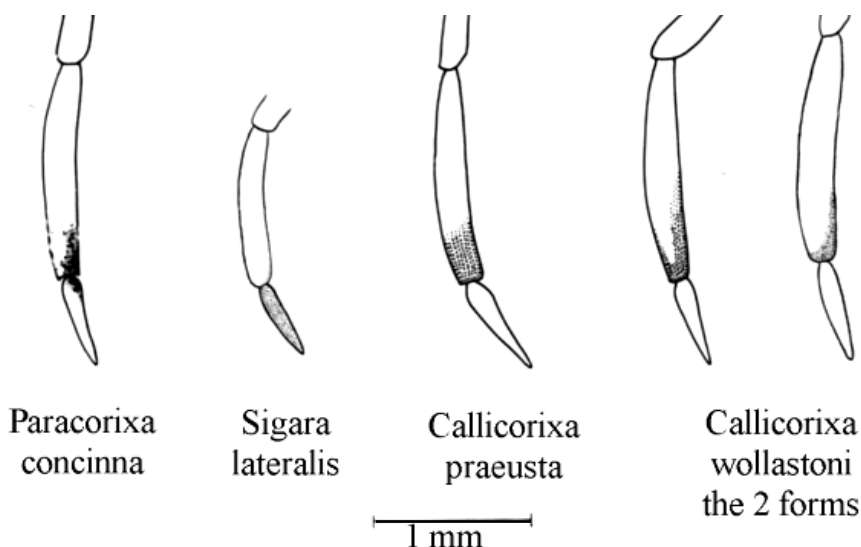
A new species recently added to the British list, **Cymatia rogenhoferi** may be found in future. It is slimmer, parallel sided, the wingcases are dark with transverse oval yellow spots. Pronotum like *C. bondsdorffii*



- 3** If your specimen is large; 3.5 mm or more wide, 8 to 14 mm long it is one of the 5 *Corixa* species, use the full key.

Otherwise as a first step:

Look at the claw and tarsus of the rear legs, look for dark marks like those shown below. Move the swimming hairs aside if needed to get a clear view.



Having named a species with dark rear claws / tarsi check the male palae on the pages 3 or 4.

If there are no dark marks, **go on to 4**

4

Look at the rows of pegs on the male pala.

Does it have one row **GO TO 5**

Does it have two rows **GO TO 6**

5

## ONE ROW OF PEGS

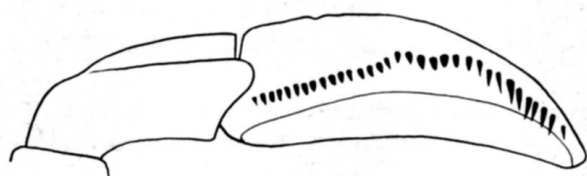
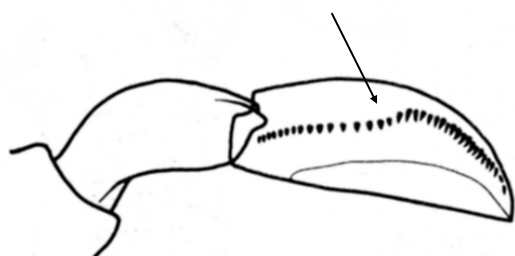
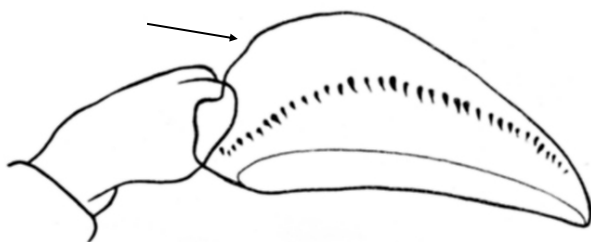
*Hesperocorixa*  
*castanea*



*Hesperocorixa*  
*sahlbergi*



*Hesperocorixa*  
*moesta*



Be careful here. If you think you may have a species of *Hesperocorixa* it is hard to be sure just on the pala shape.

Check with the key on the shape of the metasternal xiphus to ensure it is *Hesperocorixa*. Then check markings and shape of the genital forceps.

There are 4 species:

***Hesperocorixa sahlbergi*, *H. linnaei*,  
*H. moesta* & *H. castanea***

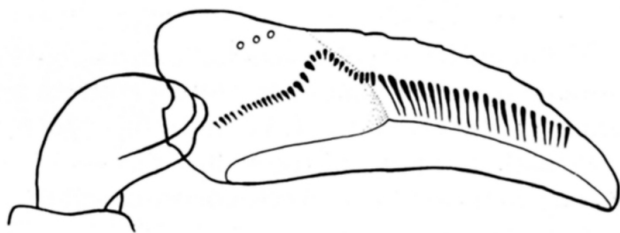
***Sigara stagnalis*** - Mostly in coastal waters but sometimes inland

Check head concavity on  
page 5 for these two species

***Sigara selecta*** - Confined to English coastal habitats in the South East

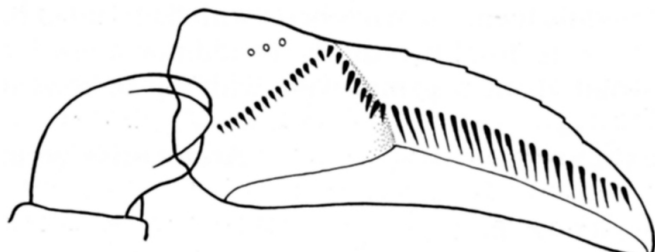
***Arctocorisa carinata*** - Generally found over 300m but can be at sea level in the north.

***Arctocorisa germari*** - More common in the North & Scotland but may well be found in the South as well.



**Glaencorisa propinqua** There are two variants of this species

**Glaencorisa propinqua propinqua**  
Mostly recorded from Scotland, some records from NW England a few from the South

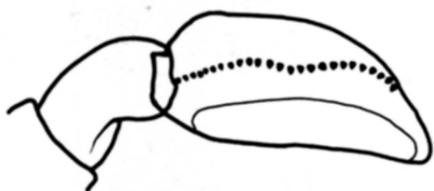


**Glaencorisa propinqua cavifrons**  
A subspecies, mostly from the Scottish Islands

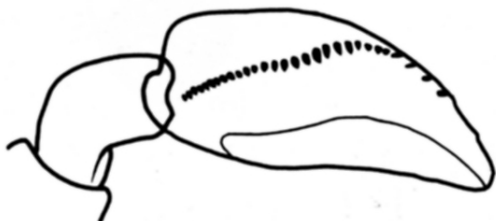


**Sigara nigrolineata** - Widespread

Check head concavity on page 5 for this species

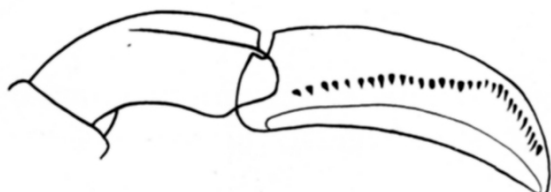


**Sigara scotti** - Mostly in moor & mountain pools, acidic habitats

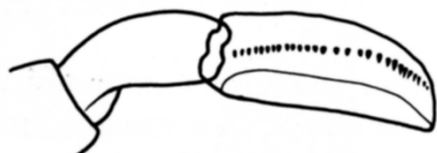


**Sigara fossarum** - Common except in West, South West & far North

THESE TWO SPECIES HAVE DARK SPOTS ON CLAWS / TARSI OF HIND LEGS.



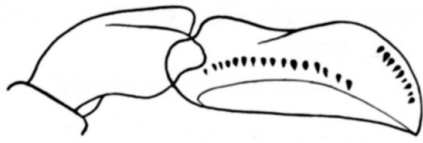
**Paracorixa concinna** - Was known as Sigara concinna Widespread though not always common



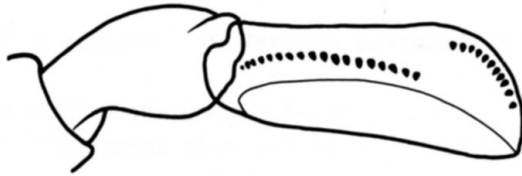
**Sigara lateralis** - Throughout Britain

## TWO ROWS OF PEGS

THESE FIRST TWO SPECIES HAVE DARK SPOTS ON CLAWS / TARSI OF HIND LEGS.



**Callicorixa praeusta** - Common in lowland Britain, scarcer elsewhere

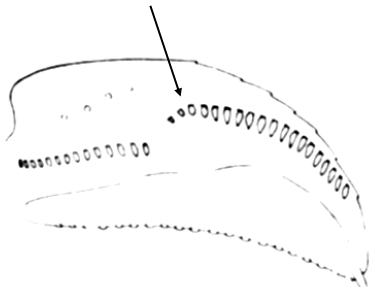


**Callicorixa wollastoni** - Mainly Northern Britain in high moor & mountain pools, acidic habitats

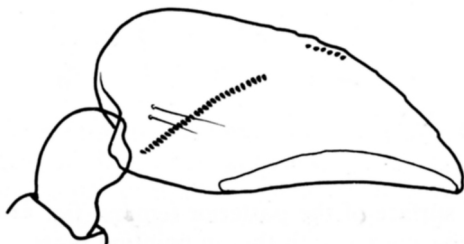
### No dark spots on hind claws / tarsi



**Sigara dorsalis** - A very common species, but hard to distinguish from *S. striata* if they occur together. Check the full key.  
*S. dorsalis* is the commonest species in Britain



**Sigara striata** - Hard to distinguish from *S. dorsalis* if they occur together. Check the full key.  
*S. striata* seems to be restricted to East Kent & Sussex

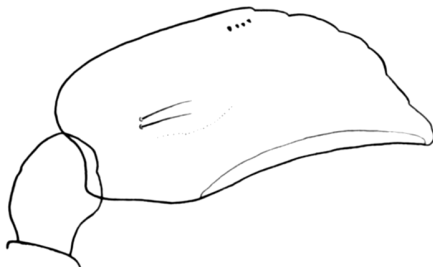


**Sigara falleni** Common in most parts of Britain, except far North, Wales &

Great care is needed when comparing the pala of these two species

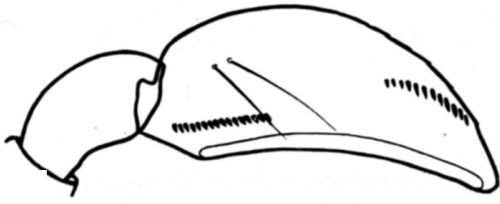


**Sigara iactans** New to the British list in 2001 Suffolk, Norfolk, Bedfordshire

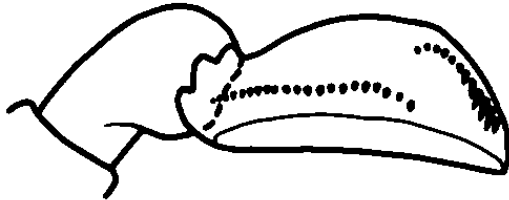


**Sigara fallenoidea** Only found in Ireland

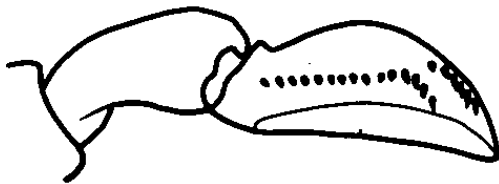
## TWO ROWS OF PEGS continued



***Sigara distincta*** - Common throughout Britain



***Sigara limitata*** - Widely distributed, most common in SE England



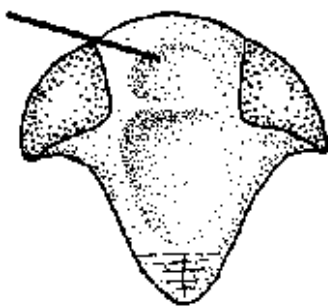
***Sigara venusta*** - Mainly Northern distribution with widespread records across the South & East



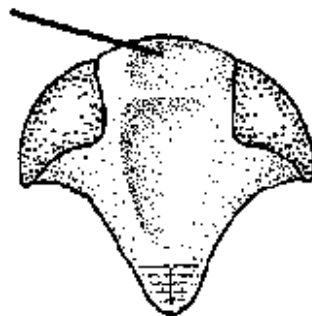
***Sigara semistriata*** - Common throughout Britain

Check head concavity on page 5 for these 3 species

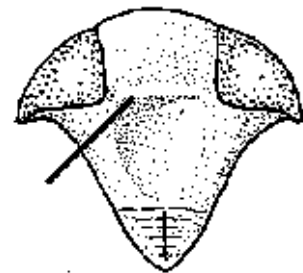
## Positions and sizes of facial depressions in certain males.



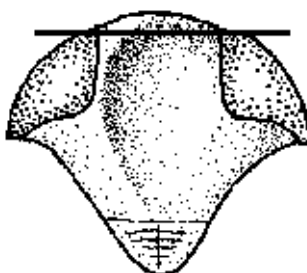
***Sigara stagnalis***



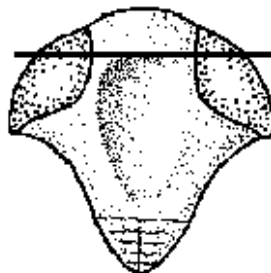
***Sigara selecta***



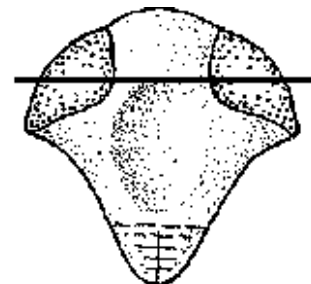
***Sigara nigrolineata***



***Sigara limitata***



***Sigara semistriata***

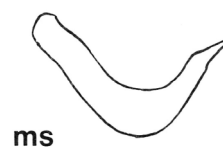
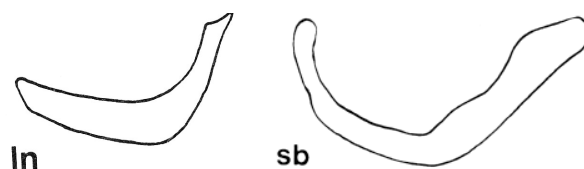
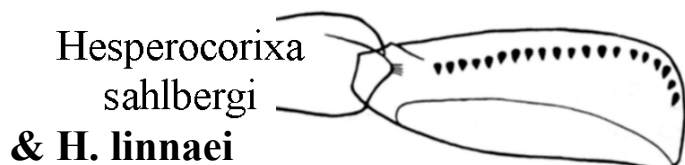
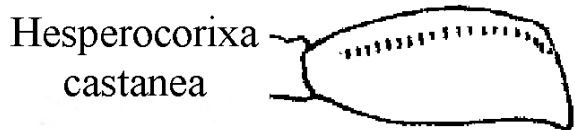


***Sigara venusta***

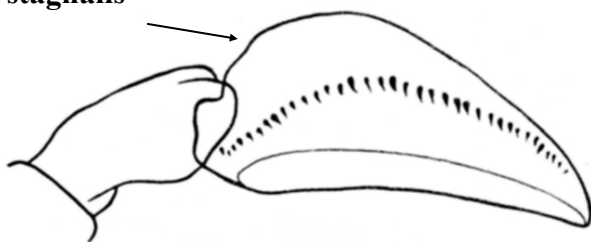
For those who wish to confirm their pala shape identifications by dissecting out male genitalia, the following show the parameres in the same order as the species in the key above. Mostly these are the right parameres, left parameres are only shown where they show significant differences between species

## ONE ROW OF PALA PEGS

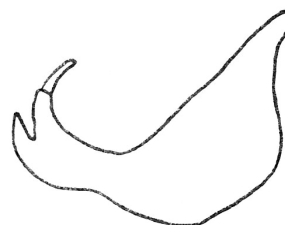
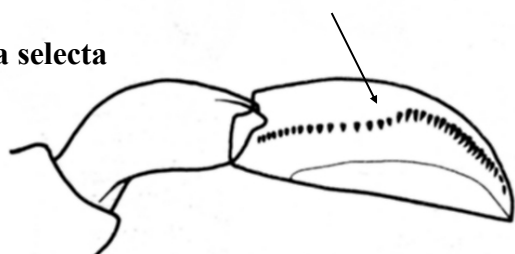
## Parameres



## Sigara stagnalis



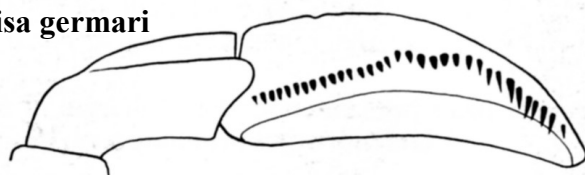
## Sigara selecta



## Arctocorisa carinata



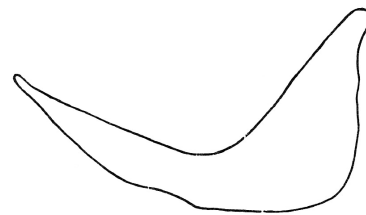
## Arctocorisa germari



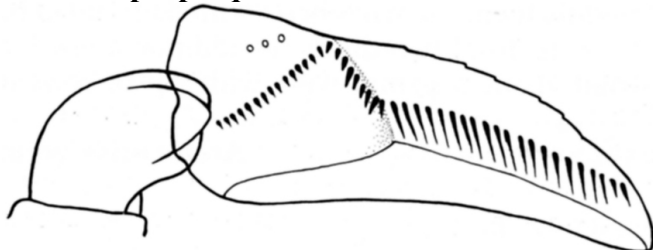
# ONE ROW OF PEGS continued

## Right Paramere

*Glaencorisa propinqua*



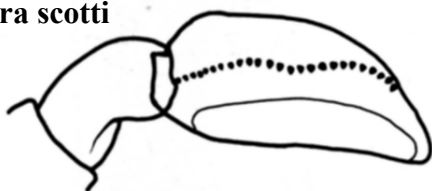
*Glaencorisa propinqua cavifrons*



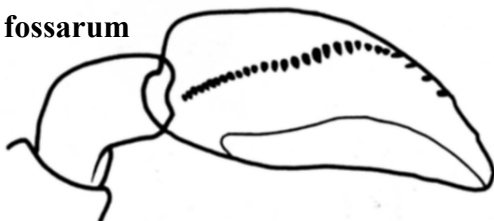
*Sigara nigrolineata*



*Sigara scotti*

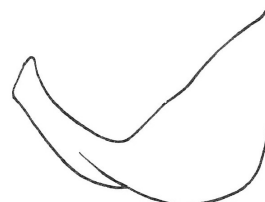
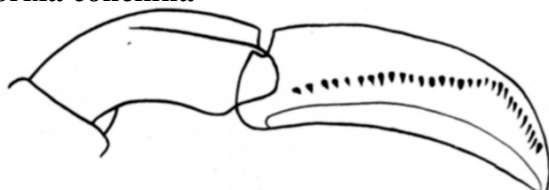


*Sigara fossarum*

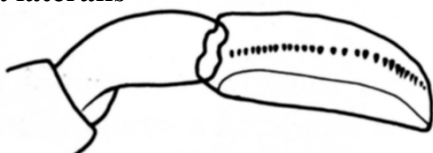


THESE TWO SPECIES HAVE DARK SPOTS ON CLAWS / TARSI OF HIND LEGS.

*Paracorixa concinna*



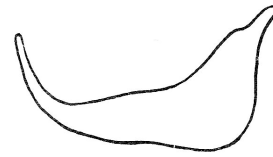
*Sigara lateralis*



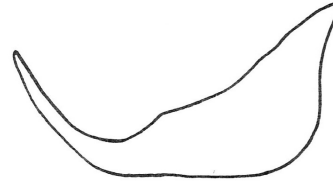
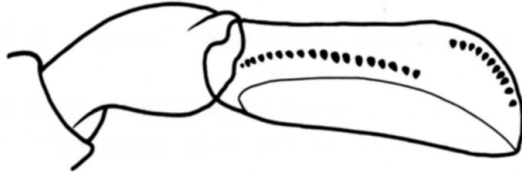
**TWO ROWS OF PEGS      THESE FIRST TWO SPECIES HAVE DARK SPOTS ON  
CLAWS / TARSI OF HIND LEGS.**

**Right Paramere**

**Callicorixa praeusta**

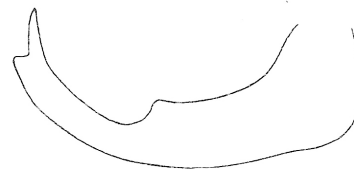


**Callicorixa wollastoni**

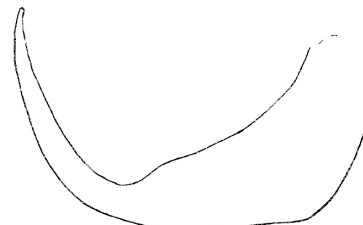
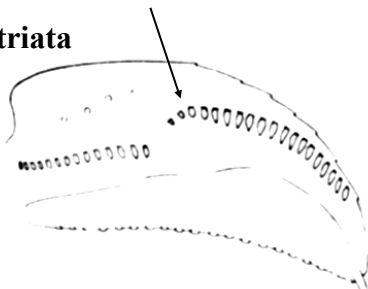


**No dark spots on hind claws / tarsi**

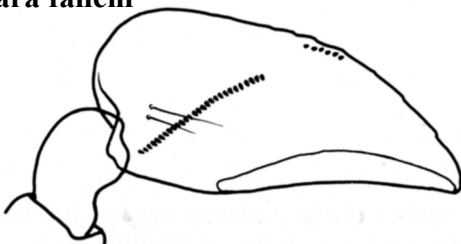
**Sigara dorsalis**



**Sigara striata**



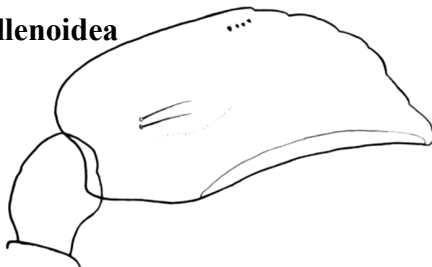
**Sigara falleni**



**Sigara iactans**



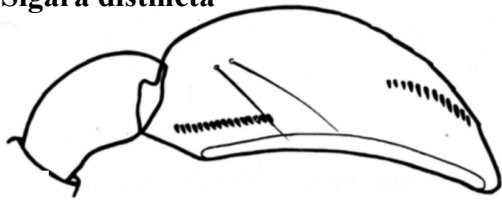
**Sigara fallenoidea**





## TWO ROWS OF PEGS continued

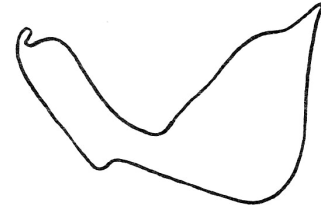
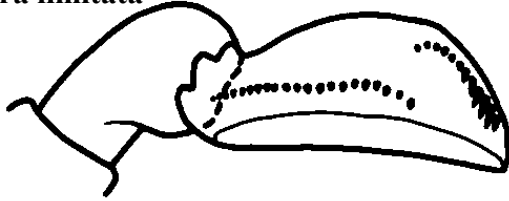
*Sigara distincta*



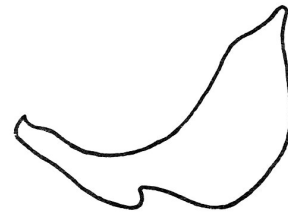
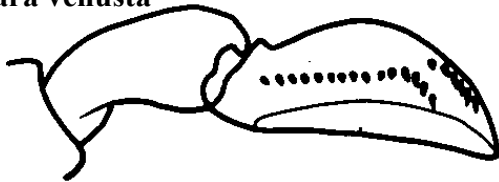
Right Paramere



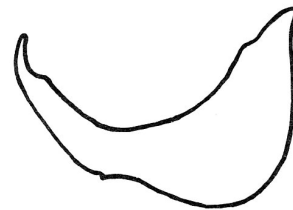
*Sigara limitata*



*Sigara venusta*

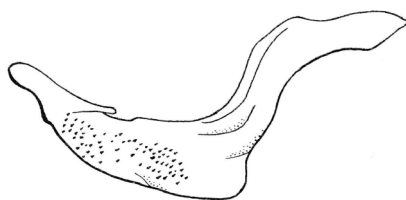


*Sigara semistriata*

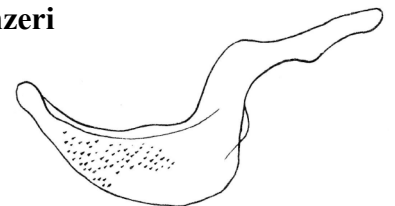


## THE FOUR SPECIES OF CORIXA - breadth greater than 3.5 mm Both left and right parameres shown

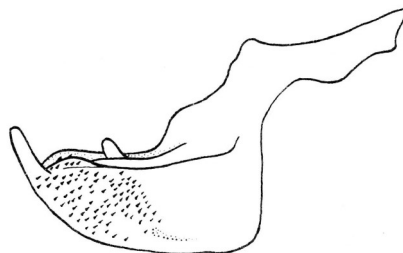
*Corixa dentipes*



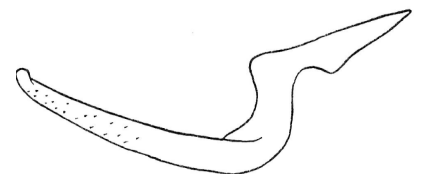
*Corixa panzeri*



*Corixa punctata*



*Corixa affinis*



*Corixa iberica*

