

Glow worm and lesser stag beetle identification

This guide is designed to help with identifying two distinctive beetle species you may encounter during Reptilewatch JE surveys.

Glow worm

Lampyris noctiluca

Photo: Tim Ransom



Size: Up to 25 mm long (females)

Appearance: Males are winged with brown wing cases (elytra) whereas females remain as larvae without wings. Typically they are blackish-brown in colour with yellow/cream sides and 'corners' of each segment. They may be confused with the larvae of ladybirds or carrion beetles (Silphidae).

Habitats: They may be found under rocks, logs and artificial refugia, especially between May and August.

Lesser stag beetle

Dorcus parallelipedus

Photo: Krissy Le Feuvre



Size: Up to 30 mm long

Appearance: A large dark-coloured beetle which is dissimilar to most other species in Jersey. It has a wide head and large mandibles and is active between May and September.

Habitats: It can be seen during summer during dispersal, and frequents woodland and other areas containing large trees.



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