

Common Green Grasshopper

Omocestus viridulus

Insects · Active Jun–Oct



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A medium-sized, usually bright green grasshopper — males often have a brownish or reddish tinge to the abdomen — with straight rather than sharply angled side keels on the pronotum. It is a species of damp, unimproved, taller grassland: hay meadow, moorland edge, rushy pasture and woodland ride, which is common ground around Dumfries.

BEHAVIOUR

The song is the best way to find it: a long, steady, accelerating whirring that runs for fifteen or twenty seconds, quite unlike the short bursts of most other grasshoppers. It is produced by rubbing a row of pegs on the hind leg against a hardened wing vein. It is one of the earliest grasshoppers to mature each year, so it is often singing before others have appeared.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Short-horned grasshoppers (Acrididae)
SIZE	14–23 mm
STATUS	Native; common in damp unimproved grassland

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