

Meadow Grasshopper

Chorthippus parallelus

Insects · Active Jun-Oct



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A small to medium grasshopper, usually green but occasionally brown, pink or purple, with gently curved side keels on the pronotum. The distinguishing feature is the wings: in females especially they are conspicuously short, reaching only part-way down the abdomen, and the species is flightless. Meadow grasshoppers are abundant in rough grassland, verges and meadows around Dumfries.

BEHAVIOUR

Because it cannot fly, this grasshopper spreads slowly and depends on continuous grassland — it is a good indicator of long-established, unimproved sward. The song is a short, dry, rasping burst repeated every few seconds, much briefer than the common green grasshopper's long whirr. Eggs are laid in a froth-covered pod just below the soil surface and overwinter there.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Short-horned grasshoppers (Acrididae)
SIZE	10–23 mm
STATUS	Native; abundant, and our only flightless grasshopper

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