

## Review of Scirtidae (Coleoptera: Scirtoidea) described by Johan Christian Fabricius (1745–1808)

RAFAŁ RUTA

Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Wrocław, Przybyszewskiego 63/77, 51-148 Wrocław, Poland. E-mail: scirtes@biol.uni.wroc.pl

### Abstract

Scirtidae described by J. Ch. Fabricius are listed. Poorly known South American and Indian species are redescribed, illustrated and figured. *Cyphon depressus* Fabricius is transferred to *Ora* Clark, and *Cistela livida* Fabricius is transferred to *Pseudomicrocara* Armstrong. *Ora complanata* (Guérin-Méneville) is probably a junior synonym of *Ora depressa* (Fabricius). Data on Scirtidae collections studied by Fabricius are summarized.

**Key words:** Scirtidae, *Cyphon*, *Pseudomicrocara*, *Ora*, *Scirtes*, taxonomy, redescriptions

### Introduction

Johan Christian Fabricius described 13 species of Scirtidae (publications concerning Scirtidae: Fabricius 1775, 1792, 1798, 1801a, 1801b). Some of them are well known, common in Europe or North America, but there is also a fraction of poorly known, mainly tropical species, that had never been studied in detail. Already in Guérin-Méneville's era several species were insufficiently known and were listed as “espèces douteuses” (Guérin-Méneville 1843).

The paper presents a detailed account of all species of Scirtidae described by Fabricius.

### History of the Scirtidae collections studied by Fabricius (largely based on Zimšen 1964)

Numerous descriptions published in *Systema Entomologiae* (Fabricius 1775) were based on specimens from the collection of Joseph Banks (1743–1820) including a single species of Scirtidae, *Cistela livida* Fabricius, from Tierra del Fuego. The specimen was most likely collected during the first voyage of James Cook in which Banks had taken part and collected in Success Bay, Tierra del Fuego, between 16–20.01.1769. The specimen is deposited in The Natural History Museum, London.

William Hunter (1718–1783) was a physician and anatomist who met Fabricius in 1767. The description of *Cistela pallida* Fabricius in *Systema Entomologiae* (Fabricius 1775) was based on specimens from Hunter's collection, which is preserved in Glasgow University. A detailed description of the collection, including a watercolour illustration of *Cistela pallida*, was published by Staig (1940).

Niels Tønder Lund (1749–1809) collected mainly Danish insects, and for two years he attended lectures by Fabricius (together with Ove Sehested, see below). Specimens of *Cistela pubescens* Fabricius and *Cyphon testaceus* Fabricius were described from Lund's collection. Lund was a friend of Ove Sehested, both of them held high posts in the Civil Service, therefore they had contacts with officials in Danish colonies (Guinea, Tranquebar, and the West Indies), and they obtained large collections of insects from these areas. All South American Scirtidae in the collection of Sehested originated from Schmidt (spelled Smidt in Fabricius 1801a, b). According to Zimšen (1964) this was either Adam Levin Smidt, a custom-house officer, or a surgeon, Johan Christian Schmidt.