

Key to Genera of Cantharidae of South Carolina

(adapted from Ramsdale 2002 and Pelletier & Hébert 2014)

- 1 Maxillary palpomere 4 bilaterally symmetrical, in most securiform or cultriform; inner wings concealed in most species; elytra and size various..... 2
Maxillary palpomere 4 radially symmetrical, ovate, and terminated in an acute point; elytra more or less abbreviated, exposing flight wings in most species; length 1.2-5.0 mm 16
- 2(1) Frontoclypeal suture present; mentum elongate; tibial spurs absent 3
Frontoclypeal suture absent; mentum not elongate; tibial spurs present in most species 4
- 3(2) Elytra abbreviated; length 4.5-5.5 mm [*Belotus abdominalis*](#) (LeConte)
Elytra normally elongate; length 8-15 mm [*Chauliognathus*](#)
- 4(2) Elytra markedly abbreviated; caudal abdominal sternum irregularly modified [*Tryptherus*](#)
Elytra of most species normally elongate, some abbreviated; caudal abdominal sternum various 5
- 5(4) Gular sutures confluent; head distinctly constricted behind eyes [*Podabrus*](#)
Gular sutures widely separated; head not as above 6
- 6(5) Posterior margin of abdominal sternum 7 deeply invaginated, apparently longitudinally divided or nearly so, OR abdominal sternum 8 small and subtriangular (males) 7
Posterior margin of abdominal sternum 7 not deeply invaginated, OR abdominal sternum 7 normally broad not small and subtriangular (females) 8
- 7(6) Lateral pronotal margins entire; posterior margin of abdominal sternum 7 entire; abdominal sternum 8 small and subtriangular; length 3.5-14.0 mm 9
Lateral pronotal margins incised or otherwise modified; posterior margin of abdominal sternum 7 deeply invaginated; length 2-8 mm 13
- 8(6) Paired lateral glandular pores on abdominal tergites not large and protruded, small and inconspicuous (openings often concealed beneath elytra); length 3.5-14.0 mm 9
Paired lateral glandular pores on abdominal tergites large and protruded (openings often concealed beneath elytra ; length 2-8 mm 15
- 9(7, 8) Tarsomere 3 simple, insertion of tarsomere 4 apical; length 3.5-7.5 mm [*Rhagonycha*](#)
Tarsomere 3 emarginate, insertion of tarsomere 4 pre-apical 10
- 10(9) Both claws of all tarsi with an elongate basal tooth, appearing broadly cleft; length 9-13 mm [*Rhaxonycha*](#)
All tarsal claws not as above 11
- 11(10) Anterior claws of all tarsi invariably with a short acute basal tooth; elytra completely black; length 6-9 mm [*Atalantycha*](#)
Anterior claws of some tarsi simple, or with a blunt tooth, or with an elongate tooth; elytra various; length 6-14 mm 12
- 12(11) Pronotum transverse, widest at or near middle; head and elytra black, pronotal color various [*Cantharis*](#)
Pronotum subquadrate, widest anteriorly; head and pronotum reddish, elytra black [*Pacificanthia rotundicollis*](#) (Say)
- 13(7) Lateral margins of pronotum shallowly incised at most, rarely entire [*Polemius*](#) (males)
Lateral margins of pronotum excavated and modified into angular processes 14
- 14(13) Angular processes situated at or very close to hind angles; abdominal sternum 7 with posterior margin widely open (V-shaped); abdominal sternum 8 elongate and wide [*Silis*](#) (males)
Angular processes situated directly in front of hind angles; abdominal sternum 7 with posterior margin narrowly open (U-shaped); abdominal sternum 8 reduced to a narrow process or apparently absent [*Ditemnus bidentatus*](#) (Say) (male)

- 15(8) Paired lateral glandular pores on abdominal sterna large and protruded (openings may be concealed beneath elytra) [Silis, Ditemnus, or Polemius](#) females
 Paired lateral glandular pores on abdominal sterna small and inconspicuous (openings may be concealed beneath elytra)... 16
- 16(1, 15) Antennae markedly serrate, pectinate, or flabellate.....[Tytthonyx](#)
 Antennae filiform, rarely slightly subserrate..... 17
- 17(16) Mandibles with a prominent tooth on inner margin; gular sutures confluent; frons more or less convex..... 18
 Mandibles simple, serrate, or with tooth on inflexed outer margin; gular sutures separate in most species;
 frons more or less concave[Malthodes](#)
- 18(17) Elytra with coarse, striate punctures; pronotum about as long as wide; elytra extended to tergite 5
[Malthinus](#)
 Elytra with fine, confused punctures; pronotum one-third wider than long; elytra extended to tergite 3
[Caccodes granicollis](#) (Fender)

Pelletier, G., and C. Hébert. 2014. The Cantharidae of eastern Canada and northeastern United States. *Canadian Journal of Arthropod Identification* 5:1-246.
 Ramsdale, A. S. 2002. Cantharidae, pp. 202-218. *In* Arnett, R. H., Jr., M. C. Thomas, P. E. Skelley, and J. H. Frank, eds. *American beetles. Volume 2. Polyphaga: Scarabaeoidea through Curculionoidea*. CRC Press, New York.