

Key to Genera of Histeridae of South Carolina

(adapted from Kovarik and Caterino 2002)

1	Antennal cavities for receipt of retracted antennal club, if present, situated laterally, the funicle in repose curving outward; prosternum various	2
	Antennal cavities present along side of prosternal keel, the funicle in repose curved inward; prosternum without anterior lobe (Saprininae)	34
2(1)	Labrum setose	3
	Labrum without setae	20
3(2)	Prosternal lobe with lateral extensions (alae) which conceal the retracted antennal funicle and partially conceal the antennal cavity from below	4
	Prosternal lobe without lateral extensions, the retracted antennal funicle and club not concealed by alae (Dendrophilinae and Abramaeinae)	8
4(3)	Pronotum with at least two costae (Onthophilinae)	<u>Onthophilus</u>
	Pronotum lacking costae (Tribalinae)	5
5(4)	Elytra with weakly impressed discal striae, no striae entire; body outline nearly circular	<u>Caerosternus americanus</u> (LeConte)
	Elytra with discal striae distinctly impressed, at least one stria entire; body outline various	6
6(5)	Meso- and metasternal stria present in addition to marginal metasternal stria; marginal metasternal stria often evanescent medially; fifth dorsal stria and sutural stria obliterated in basal third	<u>Plagiogramma subtropica</u> (Casey)
	Meso- and metasternal stria absent; marginal metasternal stria not evanescent medially; fifth dorsal stria entire	7
7(6)	Pronotum with marginal stria only; elytra striae various	<u>Epiurus</u>
	Pronotum with lateral and marginal striae; elytra with sutural and dorsal stria 5 united anteriorly	<u>Pseudepiurus gentilis</u> (Horn)
8(3)	Form cylindrical, parallel-sided; elytra striae obsolete; mesepimeron produced dorsally between pronotum and elytron, visible from above; mesosternum with acute anterior projection received by prosternal emargination (Teretriini)	<u>Teretrius americanus</u> LeConte *
	Form various, generally round, oval, or depressed; elytral striae various; mesepimeron not visible from above; anterior mesosternal margin outwardly or inwardly arcuate, not acutely projecting	9
9(8)	Pronotal disc with a pair of longitudinal grooves, frequently connected anteriorly by a transverse groove; prosternum broad, deeply excavate in a somewhat X-shaped pattern, densely setose within excavation; procoxae small, round, widely separated	<u>Plegaderus</u>
	Pronotal disc without longitudinal or transverse groove; prosternum not excavate; procoxae transverse	10
10(9)	Protibiae with two apical spurs, the larger curved and nearly perpendicular to tibial axis; elytra striate or not; generally longer than 2 mm in length; pronotum with extended anterior lobe (Dendrophilinae)	11
	Protibial spurs absent; elytra without striae; generally less than 2 mm in length; pronotum various	15
11(10)	Sutures of antennal club inwardly arcuate; meso- and metatibiae expanded, similar in shape to protibia; elytron more or less margined by subcariniform outer subhumeral stria	<u>Dendrophilus opacus</u> Ross
	Sutures of antennal club outwardly arcuate; meso- and metatibiae slender; outer subhumeral stria abbreviated or absent, not cariniform (Paromalini)	12
12(11)	Elytra striate	13
	Elytra without complete striae, striae absent or present only as faint basal rudiments	14

* Bousquet and Laplante (1999:53) questioned records south of New Jersey.

- 13(12) Hind tarsomere 1 about as long as 2+3 combined and with a double row of stiff setae (about 5-6 on each side); dorsal stria 4 arched to elytral suture at base; pygidium occasionally transversely impressed or otherwise modified [Xestipyge](#)
Hind tarsomeres 1-4 subequal in length, 1 with only 1-2 pairs of ventral setae; pygidium unmodified [Carcinops](#)
- 14(12) Body broad, very flattened; prosternal striae present [Platylomalus aequalis](#) (Erichson)
Body subdepressed but convex above; prosternal striae absent [Paromalus](#)
- 15(10) Antennal club with distinct, inwardly directed annuli; antennae inserted under frontal protuberances; epipleuron separated from elytral dorsum by a distinct carina; protarsal furrow located along outer margin of protibia; hind tarsi with five tarsomeres [Anapleus marginatus](#) (LeConte)
Antennal club annuli faint or obsolete, if visible, then outwardly arcuate; frons generally not protuberant over antennal insertions; elytron carinate or not; protarsal furrow various; hind tarsi with four or five tarsomeres 16
- 16(15) Hind tarsi with four tarsomeres; upper and lower surfaces of antennal club with round, mostly glabrous sclerotized areas at base; prosternum without anterior lobe (Acritini) 17
Hind tarsi with five tarsomeres; antennal surfaces entirely setose; prosternum lobed anteriorly 19
- 17(16) Scutellum usually hidden; epistoma with stria along lateral and frequently anterior margins; pygidium with marginal stria [Aeletes](#)
Scutellum visible, sometimes minute; epistoma without marginal striae; pygidium without marginal stria 18
- 18(17) Protibia distinctly expanded apically, approximately twice as long as wide, spinose along margin; mesosternum, especially mesosternal stria, anteriorly angulate; prosternal striae parallel at base, strongly divergent anteriorly [Halacritus parallelus](#) (Casey)
Protibia slender, three or more times as long as wide; margin multisetose; anterior mesosternal margin outwardly arcuate, not angulate; prosternal striae various [Acritus](#)
- 19(16) Propygidium usually covered, or nearly covered by elytra; eyes present; body strongly convex, globular; color metallic blue to greenish blue [Bacanius](#)
Elytra not covering propygidium; eyes absent; body narrowly elongate-oval, about twice as long as wide; color pale reddish brown [Geocolus caecus](#) Wenzel
- 20(2) Antennal scape strongly expanded, triangular; body more or less cylindrical, 5-6 mm lin length; all femora and tibiae flat and expanded; antennal club completely setose; mesosternum deeply emarginate [Yarmister barberi](#) Wenzel
If antennal scape triangular, then club laterally sclerotized and mesosternum truncate or projected anteriorly; body shape, length, and legs various 21
- 21(20) Antennal scape cylindrical or slightly expanded apically; protibiae with apical spurs; labrum free; elytra usually striate (Histerinae) 22
Antennal scape expanded apically, nearly triangular; protibiae without apical spurs; labrum fused to epistoma; elytra various (Hetaeriinae) 32
- 22(21) Protarsal furrow sinuate; antennal club annuli in ventral view strongly inwardly directed, more or less V-shaped 23
Protarsal furrow straight; antennal club annuli in ventral view inwardly or outwardly arcuate, not V-shaped, or obsolete 25
- 23(22) Body flattened; head porrect, mandibles strongly projected; mentum expanded laterally, concealing maxillary bases [Hololepta](#)
Body depressed or cylindrical, cardo and stipes visible; head deflexed; mentum not expanded laterally 24
- 24(23) Inflexed part of elytron with three or more stria; metasternum with one entire lateral stria on each side; form broad; dorsal striae 4 and 5 and sutural stria distinct in apical half [Eblisia](#)
Inflexed part of elytron with two striae; metasternum with two more or less entire striae on each side; form and elytral striae various [Platysoma](#)

25(22)	Mesosternum sinuate anteriorly, projected medially; prosternum emarginate at base	26
	Mesosternum truncate or emarginate anteriorly; prosternum not emarginate	27
26(25)	Body with metallic bluish iridescence; prosternal striae parallel to slightly divergent anteriorly; antennal club without visible annuli	<u>Baconia</u>
	Body rufescent to brown or black, without bluish tinge; prosternal striae convergent anteriorly in most specimens; antennal club with distinct inwardly arcuate subapical annulus	<u>Phelister</u>
27(25)	Elytron with epipleuron and dorsum separated by a cariniform stria; pronotum weakly explanate; antennal club without annuli	<u>Operclipygus</u>
	Epipleuron and dorsum of elytron not separated by cariniform stria; pronotum convex; antennal club annulate	28
28(27)	Meso- and metatibiae broad and flat, more or less rectangular; body, particularly frons, densely punctate, generally rufescent	<u>Psiloscelis</u>
	Meso- and metatibiae slender or expanded only apically, not flat; body at most sparsely punctate, black or with red elytral maculations	29
29(28)	Outer subhumeral stria complete; protibiae generally shallowly excavate on anterior face between teeth	<u>Margarinotus</u>
	Outer subhumeral stria abbreviated or absent (ignore pale diagonal stria); anterior protibial excavations not present	30
30(29)	Pronotum with a single lateral stria, the pronotum punctate in anterior angle	<u>Merohister</u>
	Pronotum with two lateral striae on each side, the outer of which may be abbreviated; pronotum generally smooth or very finely punctate in anterior angles	31
31(30)	Mesosternum emarginate, sometimes weakly, receiving prosternal projection	<u>Hister</u>
	Mesosternum truncate, not receiving prosternal projection	<u>Atholus</u>
32(21)	Antennal club cylindrical sensilla restricted to truncate apex; pronotum with glandular lobe or lobes laterally, demarcated from disc by oblique furrow; mesosternum usually with deep fossa on each side in anterolateral angle	<u>Haeterius</u>
	Antennal club oval sensilla present along apical and lateral margins; pronotum lacking glandular lobes; mesosternum lacking fossa	33
33(32)	Elytron with four dorsal striae and sutural stria entire; pronotum subdivided into broad discal and narrow lateral areas by a pair of fine striae	<i>Ulkeus intricatus</i> Horn (and several undescribed species)
	Elytron with at most a single distinct stria; pronotum not subdivided	<u>Pinaxister setiger</u> (LeConte)
34(1)	Frontal stria distinct, separating frons from epistoma	35
	Frontal stria absent at middle, frons and epistoma confluent	36
35(34)	Pronotum coarsely punctate, at least on the lateral margin and posterior edge; hind tibia with two rows of spinulae along lateral edge	<u>Hypocaccus</u>
	Pronotum without punctures except for a band along posterior edge; hind tibia with at least three rows of spinulae along lateral edge	<i>Baeckmanniolus dimidiatipennis</i> (LeConte)
36(34)	Underside of antennal club with four distinct sensory plaques (“Reichardt’s organ”)	37
	Underside of antennal club with a single poorly-defined sensory plaque or uniformly setose	38
37(36)	Preapical prosternal foveae present; prosternal keel with lateral prosternal striae terminating in foveae, carinal striae ascending to meet lateral striae in or slightly posterior to foveae; sensory plaques of antennal club elongate; pronotal hypomeron setose	<u>Xerosaprinus</u>
	Preapical prosternal foveae absent; prosternal keel with carinal striae joining lateral striae, the single united stria continuing anteriorly around margin of prosternum; pronotal hypomeron setose or not	<u>Saprinus</u>
38(36)	Tarsal claws of unequal length, outer claw 0.25 to 0.33 length of inner	<i>Chelyoxenus xerobatis</i> Hubbard
	Tarsal claws of equal length	39

- 39(38) Carinal prosternal carinae parallel or convergent, ending abruptly without joining lateral striae [Geomysaprinus](#)
 Carinal prosternal carinae meeting lateral striae 40
- 40(39) Carinal prosternal striae widely separate at base parallel to near middle of prosternum then abruptly convergent
 to apex; lateral prosternal striae descending to join carinals near base; prosternal keel more or less flat
 between striae; preapical prosternal foveae absent [Gnathoncus](#)
 Carinal prosternal striae closer at base divergent in front of coxae to join lateral striae the united stria ending
 anteriorly in preapical prosternal foveae; shape of prosternal keel various [Euspilotus](#)

Bousquet, Y, and S. Laplante. 1999. Les Coléoptères Histéridés du Québec. Faberies, Supplement 8. 190 pp.

Kovarik, P. W., and M. S. Caterino. 2002. Histeridae, pp. 212-227. In Arnett, R. H., Jr. and M. C. Thomas, eds. American beetles. Volume 1. Archostemata, Myxophaga, Adepaga, Polyphaga: Staphyliniformia. CRC Press, New York.