

# Key to Genera of Lampyridae of South Carolina

(adapted from Lloyd 2002)

Males have 7 visible abdominal sterna, females 6

- 1 Pronotum with explanate lateral borders absent or narrow; hypomera closed, i.e., extended to anterior margin or nearly so; antennomeres 3-10 each with two branches ..... [\*Pollaclasis bifaria\*](#) (Say)  
Pronotum with lateral borders explanate; hypomera open anteriorly, i.e., extended to anterior margin; antennae various ..... 2
- 2(1) Anterior claws of front and middle tarsi bifid ..... [\*Photuris\*](#)  
Anterior claws of front and middle tarsi simple ..... 3
- 3(2) Antennomere 11 with a tiny, subspherical, smooth, glabrous, sometimes vitreous, bead; length 5.0-8.5 mm  
..... [\*Phausis reticulata\*](#) Say  
Antennomere 11 without such a bead; length various ..... 4
- 4(3) Body outline very broadly oval; pronotum distinctly transverse and subtriangular; epipleura very wide  
(range neotropical) ..... [\*Tenaspis angularis\*](#) (Gorham)  
Body outline normal, i.e., narrowly oval or elongate; pronotum not distinctly transverse; epipleura not exceptionally wide ..... 5
- 5(4) Light organ present on two or three abdominal sterna ..... 6  
Light organ either completely absent or a small median dot on one abdominal sternum (sterna 6 and 7 may be yellow) ..... 7
- 6(5) Median line of pronotum with a distinct but low keel or carina along most or all of its length; pronotum  
subpentagonal ..... [\*Pyractomena\*](#)  
Median line of pronotum rather flat or with a shallow groove; pronotum not subpentagonal ..... [\*Photinus\*](#) (in part)
- 7(5) Eyes large, nearly contiguous beneath head; apex of mandibles abruptly narrowed ..... [\*Pleotomodes\*](#)  
Eyes small and well separated; apex of mandibles not abruptly narrowed ..... 8
- 8(7) Antennomere 2 very short, wider than long, about 1/4 as long as 3; antennomere 1 shorter than 3 ..... 9  
Antennomere 2 short but not wider than long, at least 1/3 as long as 3; antennomere 1 longer than 3 ..... 10
- 9(8) Antennae delicate, only slightly compressed and serrate; pronotum subcircular or hexagonal, usually not more  
narrowly rounded in front; genitalia of general form ..... [\*Pyropyga\*](#)  
Antennae coarse and distinctive, markedly compressed and serrate; pronotum subpentagonal or triangular,  
its anterior margin usually more rounded than other rounded angles of outline; genitalia various ..... [\*Lucidota\*](#)
- 10(9) Margins and suture of elytra pale, contrasting with darker disc; lateral margins of pronotal flanges always  
without dark vitta ..... [\*Photinus\*](#) (in part)  
Margins and suture concolorous with elytral disc; lateral margins of pronotum with dark vitta in  
most specimens ..... [\*Ellychnia corrusca\*](#) (Linn.) **complex**