

Key to Genera of Lucanidae of South Carolina

(adapted from Ratcliffe 2002)

- 1 Antennae straight, not geniculate; body form oval or cylindrical; prosternal process narrow, front coxae nearly contiguous 2
Antennae geniculate; body form elongate; prosternal process broad, front coxae distinctly separated 3
- 2(1) Form short, oval, convex; elytra coarsely punctate with conspicuous bristles; antenna with lamellate club [*Nicagus obscurus*](#) LeConte
Form elongate, cylindrical; elytra striate and nearly glabrous; antennal club only weakly lamellate [*Ceruchus piceus*](#) Weber
- 3(1) Eyes nearly entire, canthus absent or very short; antennae slightly geniculate, scape lacking groove at apex; length 8-12 mm [*Platycerus virescens*](#) (Fabricius)
Eyes divided by canthus, canthus more than one-fourth as long as eye; antennae markedly geniculate, scape with apical groove; length > 14 mm 4
- 4(3) Elytra nearly smooth; pronotum with lateral margin markedly arcuate or angulate; hind tibia with 0, 2, or 3 spines along outer edge; length 31-40 mm [*Lucanus*](#)
Elytra striate-punctate; pronotum with lateral margins subparallel; hind tibia with one spine on outer edge; length 14-27 mm [*Dorcus*](#)

Ratcliffe, B. C. 2002. Lucanidae, pp. 6-9. In Arnett, R. H., Jr., M. C. Thomas, P. E. Skelley, and J. H. Frank, eds. American beetles. Volume 2. Polyphaga: Scarabaeoidea through Curculionioidea. CRC Press, New York.