

FAMILY MELOIDAE (Blister beetles)

J.M. Campbell

This family comprises over 3000 species. They are found in most regions of the world but most are restricted to the warmer, drier areas. Only 48 species are known to occur in Canada and Alaska and most of these occur in the semiarid areas of the Prairie provinces and British Columbia. Larvae of Epicautini feed on grasshopper eggs and those of all other Canadian blister beetles feed on eggs, larvae and food reserves of ground-nesting bees. Larvae of Meloini and Zonitinae are phoretic. The eggs are laid on flowers, the larvae hatch and the first instar (called triungulin) attach to bees visiting flowers and are transported to the bee's nest where they drop off. Adults of Canadian meloids are phytophagous or feed on nectar; many are considered economic pests. Adults of this family produce cantharidin (spanish fly) which causes blisters on contact with the skin and, if present in dried hay, has been known to be fatal to horses. Cantharidin is also used for medical purposes.

Most genera of North American Meloidae are well-known taxonomically. A few genera such as *Tricrania* have not been revised and the large, important genus *Epicauta* is in need of additional study. The Canadian fauna is well-known and few additional species are expected to be added to the checklist in the future. The most recent treatments of the family at the generic level are those of Van Dyke (1928a) and Arnett (1968).

AK (3); YK (1); NT (3); BC (25); AB (23); SK (23); MB (20); ON (17); PQ (10); NB (3); NS (3)

Subfamily MELOINAE Tribe Meloini

Genus EURYMELOE Reitter

E. aleuticus (Borchmann) AK - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Genus MELOE Linné

Key to North American species: Pinto & Selander (1970)

(Subgenus TREIODOUS Dugès)

M. barbarus LeConte - - - BC - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

(Subgenus MELOE s.str.) *Melittophagus* Kirby

M. americanus Leach - - - - - - - - ON - - - - - - - - - -

moerens LeConte
texasus Dillon

M. angusticollis Say - - - BC AB SK MB ON PQ - NS - - - -

montanus LeConte
rugipennis LeConte

M. carbonaceus LeConte - - - - AB - - - - - - - - - -

M. dianellus Pinto & Selander - - - BC AB SK - ON PQ - NS - - - -

M. impressus Kirby AK YK NT BC AB SK MB ON PQ NB - - - -

occidentalis Van Dyke

M. niger Kirby - - NT BC AB SK MB ON PQ - NS - - - -

kirbyi Dillon
opacus LeConte
perplexus LeConte

M. occultus Pinto & Selander - - - BC - - - - - - - - - -

M. strigulosus Mannerheim AK - - BC - - - - - - - - - -

M. vandykei Pinto & Selander - - - BC - - - - - - - - - -

Tribe Lyttini
Subtribe Lyttina

Genus LYTTA Fabricius
Key to species: Selander (1960)

(Subgenus PARALYTTA Selander)

L. vulnerata (LeConte) - - - BC - - - - - - - - -
 anguicollis (Dugès)
 cooperi LeConte

(Subgenus POREOSPASTA Horn)

L. cyanipennis (LeConte) - - - BC - - - - - - - - -
 salicis LeConte
 L. nuttalli Say - - - - AB SK MB - - - - - - -
 fulgifera (LeConte)
 L. stygica (LeConte) - - - BC - - - - - - - - -
 arborea Wellman
 difficilis (Fall)
 dolosa LeConte
 nevadensis Van Dyke
 purpurescens (Fall)
 smaragdula (LeConte)
 stolidula (Fall)
 L. viridana LeConte - - - BC AB SK MB - - - - - - -

(Subgenus POMPHOPOEA LeConte)

L. sayi LeConte - - - - - - - ON PQ - - - - -
 pyrivora (Fitch)

Subtribe Epicautina

Genus EPICAUTA Dejean
Key to North American species: Werner (1945) [see also Ballmer 1979; Pinto 1980]

(Subgenus EPICAUTA s.str.)
 (Anomalonychus Saylor)
 (Gnathospasta Horn)
 (Henous Haldeman)
 (Maculicauta Dillon)
 (Nomaspis LeConte)
 (Pleuropompha LeConte)

E. atrata (Fabricius) - - - - - MB - - - - -
 coracina (Illiger)
 trichrus (Pallas)
 E. cinerea (Forster) - - - - - SK MB ON - - - - -
 fissilabris (LeConte)
 E. ferruginea (Say) - - - - AB SK MB ON - - - - -
 E. immerita Walker - - - BC - - - - - - - - -

(Subgenus PAURONEMOGNATHA Enns)

N. nemorensis Hentz - - - - - ON - - - - -
 bimaculata Melsheimer

(Subgenus NEMOGNATHA s.str.)

N. piazzata bicolor LeConte - - - - AB SK MB - - - - -
 discolor LeConte
 stellaris Beaugard
 texana LeConte

Genus TRICRANIA LeConte
 Tricraniodes Wellman

T. murrayi LeConte - - - BC - - - - -
T. sanguinipennis (Say) - - - - - ON - - - - -
T. stansburyi (Haldeman) - - NT BC - - - - -

Genus HORNIA Riley

H. minutipennis Riley - - - - AB - - - - -

Subtribe Zonitina

Genus ZONITIS Fabricius
 Key to North American species: Enns (1956)

(Subgenus NEOZONITIS Enns)

Z. bilineata Say - - - - - ON PQ - - - - -
 lineata Melsheimer
 mandibularis Melsheimer
Z. vermiculata Schaeffer - - - BC - - - - -

(Subgenus PARAZONITIS Enns)

Z. sayi Wickham - - - - AB SK MB - - - - -
 immaculata (Say)

Genus GNATHIUM Kirby
 Key to species: MacSwain (1952)

G. minimum (Say) - - - - AB SK - - - - -