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H. E. Jaques
Iowa Wesleyan College

Donald Gordner
Iowa Wesleyan College

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A LIST OF THE MORDELLIDAE (COLEOPTERA) KNOWN TO OCCUR IN IOWA

H. E. JAQUES AND DONALD GORDNER

The tumbling flower beetles, as these small active insects are called, are capable of running and flying about with great rapidity. Their habit of kicking and tumbling about after having fallen out of a flower is responsible for their common name. They are small, wedge-shaped beetles; their body arched; head bent downward and the abdomen usually prolonged into a pointed style. In most species the hind legs are very long, front legs short, the hind tarsi long and compressed. The tarsal claws are either simple or cleft to the base. They are usually black, densely covered with fine silken pubescence, and often spotted or banded with yellow or silver. The adults are found on flowers or on or under the bark of dead trees. The larvae live in dead wood and pith of plants, some of
them being carniverous, eating the larvae of Lepidoptera and Diptera which they find in the plants.

Besides the above characters the Mordellidae have four-jointed maxillary palpi, head vertical and applied very closely to the prothorax, sharply narrowed behind the eyes. Antennae slender, eleven-jointed and inserted at the sides of the front. Thorax narrowed in front, elytra narrowed behind, leaving the tip of the abdomen exposed. Many of the species have small black ridges on the outer surface of the hind tibia and tarsi. These prominent characters are used in separating these species.

Thirty-eight of the species listed as being known for Iowa are represented by specimens in the Iowa Insect Survey collection and represent some twenty years of state-wide collecting. Work done at the Lakeside Laboratory and the extensive collecting trips associated with it, have contributed in a large way to these records. The other species are reported by Wickham or by Leng.

The numbers are those of Leng's catalog.

7804 Tomoxia bidentata (Say) 7805 Tomoxia lineella Lec.
7810 Mordella melana Germ. 7811 Mordella scutellaris Fab.
7814 Mordella octopunctata Fab. 7817 Mordella marginata Melsh.
7818 Mordella lunulata Hellmuth 7819 Mordella serval Say
7821 Mordella oculata Say 7824 Mordella triloba (Say)
7825 Mordella undulata Melsh. 7827 Mordella discoidea Melsh.
7839 Mordellistena trifasciata (Say)* 7841 Mordellistena limbalis (Melsh.)
7848 Mordellistena vapida Lec. 7855 Mordellistena fulvicollis (Melsh.)
7856 Mordellistena ornata (Melsh.) 7858 Mordellistena scapularis (Say)*
7859 Mordellistena comata (Lec.) 7860 Mordellistena aspersa (Melsh.)
7869 Mordellistena picilabris Hellm. 7872 Mordellistena grammica Lec.
7872b Mordellistena grammica ustulata Lec.*

* Reported by Wickham.
** Reported by Leng.

IOWA WESLEYAN COLLEGE,
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA.