A List of the Mordellidea (Coleoptera) Known to Occur in Iowa

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Recommended Citation
Jaques, H. E. and Gordner, Donald (1939) "A List of the Mordellidea (Coleoptera) Known to Occur in Iowa;" Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science, 46(1), 427-428.
Available at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol46/iss1/127

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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

Fig. 1. Mordellestina ornata (Melsh.)
them being carniverous, eating the larvae of Lepidoptera and Dipter 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 melaena 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  
7924 Mordella triloba (Say)  
7825 Mordella undulata Melsh.  
7827 Mordella discoidea Melsh.  
7389 Mordellistena trifasciata (Say)*  
7390 Mordellistena lepidula Lec*  
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.*  
7873 Mordellistena testacea Blatch.  
7875 Mordellistena simiusta Lec.*  
7879 Mordellistena nigricans (Melsh.)*  
7883 Mordellistena splendidens Smith  
7886 Mordellistena sexnotata Dury  
7888 Mordellistena pustulata (Melsh.)  
7889 Mordellistena convicta Lec.  
7923 Mordellistena morula Lec.  
7894 Mordellistena ambusta Lec.  
7896 Mordellistena smithi Dury  
7899 Mordellistena unicolor Lec.  
7901 Mordellistena marginalis (Say)  
7902 Mordellistena divisa Lec.  
7905 Mordellistena aequalis Smith  
7908 Mordellistena wolcottii Lilj.**  
7910 Mordellistena pubescens Fab.  
7911 Mordellistena bhamata (Melsh.)  
7913 Mordellistena fuscata (Melsh.)  
7923 Mordellistena suturella Hellm.  
7927 Mordellistena aemula Lec.*  
7931 Anthobotula trifasciata (Melsh.)  
7943 Anaspis rufa Say  
* Reported by Wickham.  
** Reported by Leng.

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