*Zootaxa* 3884 (1): 027–044
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/
Copyright © 2014 Magnolia Press

**Article**

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
**ZOOTAXA**
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3884.1.2
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:128B7D50-6F37-48ED-9773-1758B686EEA3

# A revision of the genus *Ora* Clark, 1865 (Coleoptera: Scirtidae) in Argentina (part I)—descriptions of new species

MARÍA LAURA LIBONATTI
*IBBEA, CONICET-UBA, Laboratorio de Entomología, Departamento de Biodiversidad y Biología Experimental, FCEyN, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mail: libonatti.marialaura@gmail.com*

## Abstract

Three new species of the genus *Ora* Clark are described from Argentina: *O. brevieminentia* **sp. n.**, *O. megadepressa* **sp. n.** and *O. sigmoidea* **sp. n.** All the species are characterized by a pair of frontoclypeal foveae, dorsal surface of mandible covered with setae, third labial palpomere arising from the inner margin of second palpomere, anterior pronotal angles distinctly projected anteriorly, a pair of glabrous areas on abdominal ventrites 2–5, ventrite 5 emarginate, with a pair of foveae in females, and tegmen with an apical digitiform lobe. *Ora brevieminentia* is similar externally to *O. gamma* Champion and *O. platensis* Brèthes, but it differs in having a more convex body, a smaller total length/elytral width ratio, coarser elytral punctation and a shorter lateral protuberance on the penis. *Ora megadepressa* is similar externally to *O. depressa* Fabricius, but differs in that the body is wider, the tegmen is laterally spiny with the lobe less narrowed basally, and the penis is straight with the base and the longer subapical process directed to the right-hand. *Ora sigmoidea* is similar in body color and shape to *O. brevenotata* Pic, and the aedeagus resembles that of *O. texana* Champion. However, the lobe of the tegmen is less protruding, the laminar dorsal piece of the penis is broadened, the apex is truncate, and the S-shaped ventral piece is distinctly curved.

**Key words:** marsh beetles, taxonomy, southern Neotropical region

## Introduction

*Ora* Clark, 1865 is a pantropical speciose saltatorial genus of Scirtidae, currently represented by *ca.* 60 described species. Many Neotropical, African and Oriental species were briefly described by Champion (1897, 1918) and Pic (1915, 1918, 1922, 1928). More recently, Watts (2004) and Yoshitomi (2005) revised the Australian and Japanese species, respectively, and Ruta (2009, 2013) redescribed several species previously described by Motschulsky and Fabricius in *Scirtes*.

Regarding the Neotropical fauna, the genus was never studied comprehensively. In particular, the knowledge on the Argentine fauna is scarce, with only four species reported from the country: *O. atroapicalis* Pic, *O. bruchi* Pic, *O. platensis* Brèthes and *O. semibrunnea* Pic (Brèthes 1925; Pic 1928; Libonatti *et al*. 2013).

The examination of newly collected material from several undersampled localities, together with the study of the scirtid collections of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales Bernardino Rivadavia (Buenos Aires), the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Paris) and the Natural History Museum (London), have revealed three undescribed Argentine species. The present contribution therefore aims at describing and illustrating in detail these new species.

## Material and methods

**Specimens studied.** Most of the scirtid specimens examined were collected during 2011–2012 using mercury vapor light traps and beating riparian vegetation in protected areas of three Argentine provinces (Buenos Aires and Corrientes). One specimen examined belongs to the collection of F. Angelini (AC) (held in the Museum of Natural

*Accepted by M. Gimmel: 16 Oct. 2014; published: 12 Nov. 2014*

**Remarks.** The broad elliptical body, the basal pale maculation and the costulae of elytra are features shared with *O. brevenotata* (Pic, 1915) (from Brazil) (Fig. 81). Pic apparently noticed the affinities between these species since the material in BR is labeled as a "variety" of *O. brevenotata*. Furthermore, the general shape of the aedeagus is similar in both species (Figs. 82–84), and also in *O. texana* Champion, 1897 (from southern USA) (Nyholm 1972). However, differences between the aedeagi of the three species are notable and are summarized in Table 2.


## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr. Mariano C. Michat, Dr. Rafał Ruta, Dr. Matthew Gimmel and two anonymous reviewers for their valuable suggestions and comments which helped improve greatly the paper. I am also grateful to Thierry Deuve, Azadeh Taghavian (MNHN), Maxwell Barclay, Malcolm Kerley (NHM) and Arturo Roig Alsina (MACN) for allowing me to examine the collections of Scirtidae deposited in the museums. My beloved boyfriend, Leandro, is thanked for advising me on photography and for continuously encouraging me in my work. This work was supported by a postgraduate scholarship and the grant PIP 1087 from the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET).


## References


Brèthes, J. (1925) Nouveaux coléoptères Sud Americains. *Nunquam Otiosus*, 4, 11–16.

Champion, G.C. (1897) Dascillidae. *In*: Godman, F.D. & Salvin, O. (Eds.), *Biologia Centrali-Americana. Insecta. Coleoptera. Vol. 3. Part 1. Serricornia. Buprestidae. Throscidae and Eucnemidae. Elateridae – Dascillidae.* Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Londres, pp. 586–662.

Champion, G.C. (1918) New and little-known saltatorial Dascillidae. *Entomologist's monthly magazine*, 54, 93–102, 139–149, 188–198, 219–225, 256–273.

Clark, H. (1865) An examination of the Halticidae of South America. *The Journal of Entomology. Descriptive and geographical*, 2, 375–412.

Coleman, C.O. (2003) "Digital inking": How to make perfect line drawings on computers. *Organisms, Diversity & Evolution*, 3 (Electr. Supplement 14), 1–14.

Fabricius, J.C. (1801) *Systema Eleutheratorum secundum ordines, genera, species adiectis synonymis, locis, observationibus, descriptionibus. Tomus I*. Kiliae, 506 pp.

Guérin-Méneville, F.E. (1861) Monographie du nouveau genre *Dicranopselaphus* et description de quelques autres Insectes coléoptères appartenant aussi a la famille des Dascillides. *Revue et magasin de zoologie pure et appliquée*, 2 (13), 531–547.

Kukalová-Peck, J. & Lawrence, J.F. (1993) Evolution of the hind wing in Coleoptera. *The Canadian Entomologist*, 125, 181–258.
http://dx.doi.org/10.4039/Ent125181-2

Kukalová-Peck, J. & Lawrence, J.F. (2004) Relationships among coleopteran suborders and major endoneopteran lineages: Evidence from hind wing characters. *European Journal of Entomology*, 101 (1), 95–144.
http://dx.doi.org/10.14411/eje.2004.018

Libonatti, M.L., Michat, M.C. & Torres, P.L.M. (2013) Aquatic Coleoptera from two protected areas of the Humid Chaco eco-region (Chaco Province, Argentina). *Revista de la Sociedad Entomológica Argentina*, 72 (3–4), 155–168.

Nyholm, T. (1972) Zur Morphologie und Funktion des Helodiden-Aedoeagus (Col.) *Entomologica scandinavica*, 3, 81–119.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/187631272X00193

Nyholm, T. (2002) *Scirtes japonicus* Kiesenwetter and its allies, with description of *Scirtes ussuriensis* n. sp. (Coleoptera, Scirtidae). *Entomologische Blätter für Biologie und Systematik der Käfer*, 98 (1), 49–60.

Pic, M. (1915) Descriptions abrégées diverses. *Mélanges exotico-entomologiques*, 12, 3–20.

Pic, M. (1918) Nouveautés diverses. *Mélanges exotico-entomologiques*, 29, 7–24.

Pic, M. (1922) Nouveautés diverses. *Mélanges exotico-entomologiques*, 37, 1–32.

Pic, M. (1928) Notes et descriptions. *Mélanges exotico-entomologiques*, 51, 1–36.

Ruta, R. (2009) Revision of Scirtidae (Insecta: Coleoptera) described by Victor Ivanovitsch Motschulsky. *Zootaxa*, 2210, 26–50.

Ruta, R. (2013) Review of Scirtidae (Coleoptera: Scirtoidea) described by Johan Christian Fabricius (1745–1808). *Zootaxa*, 3646 (1), 51–67.
http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3646.1.4

Watts, C.H.S. (2004) Revision of Australian *Scirtes* Illiger and *Ora* Clark (Coleoptera: Scirtidae). *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, 128 (2), 131–167.

Yoshitomi, H. (2005) Systematic revision of the family Scirtidae of Japan, with phylogeny, morphology and bionomics (Insecta: Coleoptera, Scirtoidea). *Japanese Journal of Systematic Entomology Monographic Series*, 3, 1–212.