Scirtidae of India and Sri Lanka. Part 2. Remarks on genera *Scirtes Illiger* and *Ora Clark* (Insecta: Coleoptera)

**Rafał Ruta**
Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, Zoological Institute, Wrocław University, Przybyszewskiego 63/77, 51-148 Wrocław, e-mail: scirtes@biol.uni.wroc.pl

**Abstract.** *Scirtes warchalowskii* n. sp. is described and illustrated. New localities of *Ora picta* (Fabr.), *Ora nigropunctata* (Motsch.), *Scirtes maculatus* Waterh., *Scirtes canescens* Motsch. and *Scirtes tetrastigma* Champ. are reported.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, Coleoptera, Scirtidae, Scirtes, Ora, new species, new records, India, Sri Lanka.

**Introduction**

Two largest genera of saltatorial Scirtidae comprise over 400 species and form an extremely diverse and poorly understood group of worldwide distribution. 7 species of *Ora Clark* and 17 species of *Scirtes Illiger* were reported from India and Sri Lanka. Species described by V. Motuschulsky from Sri Lanka are being redescribed (Ruta in prep.).

A peculiar new species from Meghalaya State is described in the present paper, and new records of several other species are reported.

The present study is based on specimens collected during the entomological expedition to Indian Maharashtra State in 2005 (co-organised by the Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, Wrocław University), specimens borrowed from Naturhistorisches Museum (Wien), The Natural History Museum (London), and Hungarian Museum of Natural History (Budapest).
Methods and conventions were adopted after Ruta 2007. The following abbreviations were used in the text: L – length; W – width; NMW – Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (Austria); NHM – The Natural History Museum, London (Great Britain); HMNH – Hungarian Museum of Natural History, Budapest (Hungary); NMPC - National Museum, Prague (Czech Republic); RRC – Rafał Ruta private collection (Wrocław, Poland).

CHECK-LIST OF *ORA* AND *SCIRTES* RECORDED FROM INDIA (I) AND SRI LANKA (SL):

*Ora antiqua* Champion, 1918 (I)
*Ora atrosignata* Champion, 1918 (I)
*Ora compressa* Champion, 1918 (SL)
*Ora costífera* Pic, 1918 (I)
*Ora nigropunctata* (Motschulsky, 1863) (SL)
*Ora picta* (Fabricius, 1792) (I, SL)
*Ora regínae* Pic, 1918 (I)
*Scirtes axillaris* Motschulsky, 1863 (SL)
*Scirtes bifoveatus* Champion, 1918 (SL)
*Scirtes biinterruptus* Pic, 1918 (I)
*Scirtes canescens* Motschulsky, 1863 (SL)
*Scirtes convexiusculus* Motschulsky, 1863 (SL)
*Scirtes curvipes* Champion, 1918 (I)
*Scirtes decemguttatus* Champion, 1918 (I)
*Scirtes grandis* Motschulsky, 1863 (SL)
*Scirtes maculatus* Waterhouse, 1880 (I)

= *Scirtes maculatus* Bourgeois, 1896
= *Scirtes bourgeoisii* Pic, 1913

*Scirtes marginatus* Waterhouse, 1880 (I)
*Scirtes melas* Champion, 1918 (I)
*Scirtes nigromaculatus* Pic, 1943 (I)
*Scirtes nilgiriensis* Champion, 1918 (I)
*Scirtes patkainus* Champion, 1918 (I)
*Scirtes quadrifoveatus* Champion, 1918 (SL)
*Scirtes scaphiformis* Champion, 1918 (I)
*Scirtes tetrastigma* Champion, 1918 (I)
*Scirtes warchalowskii* n. sp. (I)

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES

*Scirtes warchalowskii* n. sp.

(Figs. 1-7)
**Type Material**

Holotype (male): NE India, Meghalaya, SW of Cherrapunjee, 25°13’-14’N 91°40’E, 900 m, L. Dembícký leg., 1-24 V 2005, coll. NHM.

**Diagnosis**

*Scirtes warchalowskii* n. sp. externally resembles *Scirtes tetrastigma* Champion, although has more oblong body, larger dark patches on elytra, and lighter pronotum. It can be easily distinguished on the base of male genital characters.

**Description**

*Male.* Body oblong oval, moderately convex, covered with black (on black cuticle) and yellowish (on remaining parts of body) suberect hairs. Body testaceous, elytra yellow, slightly darkened along suture, with two black patches on each elytron. Legs testaceous, mouthparts testaceous with darkened (brownish) mandibles and maxillary palpi, antenna black with three basal antennomeres yellow, base of 4th antennomere and apex of terminal antennomere lightened. Total length 1.9 mm, greatest pronotal width 0.63 mm, greatest elytral width 1.1 mm, greatest depth of body 0.68 mm. Body 1.73 times as long as broad.
The greatest width of head 0.48 mm, head 0.77 times as long as broad, 1.41 times wider than width of interocular space, with distinct punctuation and protuberant eyes. Antenna filiform, length ratio of antennomeres 1.67 : 1.16 : 1.0 : 1.67 : 1.5 : 1.27 : 1.33 : 1.33 : 1.33 : 2.0; L/W ratio of antennomeres 1.43, 1.17, 1.5, 2.0, 1.8, 1.33, 1.33, 1.33, 1.33, 1.33, 2.0. Anterior clypeal margin with straight anterior margin, anterolateral angles rounded and somewhat explanate. Labrum reduced, membranous, hidden under clypeus. Apical maxillary palpomere narrow, slightly narrower than the 3rd antennomere. Mandibles symmetrical, without denticles, with regularly curved mesal edges.

Pronotum 1.9 times as broad as long, widest at posterior angles. Disc of pronotum with punctuation similar like on head. Posterior margin of pronotum bisinuate; anterior angles not produced, lateral margins subtly rounded.

Scutellum subtriangular, as long as wide, punctuation similar like on pronotum. Base of elytra a bit wider than base of pronotum. Elytra 1.45 times as long as broad and 4.8 times as long as pronotum. Sides rounded, regularly converging to apex in posterior third. Humeri clearly evident. Punctuation dense, only a bit stronger than on pronotum, punctures separated by a single diameter. Epipleura yellow, abruptly narrowed near base of abdomen. Hind wings fully developed. Hind femora about 4.7 times wider.

4-6. *Scirtes warchalowskii* n. sp. 4 – aedeagus; 5 – tergite VIII; 6 – tergite IX; 7 – sternite IX. Scale bar = 0.5 mm
than maximal width of hind tibia. Two long tibial spurs present on apices of hind tibia. The longer spur is almost straight, with numerous minute denticles on outer margin, reaching about 2/3 of the 1st tarsomere. The shorter spur is hooked, armed with few bigger denticles on outer margin, and measures about half the length of longer spur.

Prosternal process very narrow, laminar. Mesocoxae separated by a very narrow (ca. 5 times as long as wide) process with bilobed apex, metaventral discrinen almost complete. Ratio of ventrites’ lengths: 1.0 : 2.0 : 2.0 : 2.0 : 2.3. Last ventrite with a deep, subtriangular emargination at apex.

Male genitalia. Aedeagus (L=1.3 mm, W= 0.86) symmetrical, with tegmen and penis fused, apical part trifid and strongly sclerotised. Sternite IX (L=0.38, W= 0.48) small, reduced, with rows of setae on apical margin. Tergite VIII (L=0.63, W=0.52) small, with moderately long apodemes and minute setae on apical margin. Tergite IX (L=0.38, W=0.43) with moderately long apodemes and a row of numerous setae on apical margin.

Female. Unknown.

NAME DERIVATION

Named after professor Andrzej WARCHALOWSKI (Wrocław, Poland), world recognised expert in Chrysomelidae (especially in Alticinae, which Scirtes warchalowskii n. sp. superficially resembles), to honor his 80th birthday.

REMARKS

Species belongs to flavonotatus group of Scirtes, characterised by the peculiar morphology of aedeagus (tegmen and penis fused), mandibles symmetrical without denticles on mesal edges, etc. The group is widely distributed in the Oriental Region.

NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL DATA

Ora picta (FABRICIUS, 1792)

- W India, Maharashtra, 70 km S of Pune, Wai env., 2-7 X 2005, 18 exx., leg. J. BEZDEK, coll. RRC;
- W India, Maharashtra, Satara Distr., Wai, 5 X 2005, at light, 1 ex., leg. L. BOROWIEC, coll. RRC;
- W India, Karnataka, Hassan, 27 IX 1991, 1 ex., leg. R. SCHUH, coll. NMW;
- W India, Karnataka, Shimoga, 5 exx., coll. NMPC;
- Central India, Panna Nat. Park, VIII 1988, 2 exx., leg. WERNER, coll. NMW;
- S Sri Lanka, near Tissamaharama, 90 km NE of Matara, 14 III 1994, 3 exx., leg. Z. KEJVAL, coll. RRC;
- N Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura, 23-24 XI 1929, 2 exx., leg. Dr. ENSLIN, coll. NMW.
Widely distributed in India and Sri Lanka. Described from Tranquebar (Tamil Nadu State, S India), known also from Podanur (Tamil Nadu State, S India), Belgaum (Karnataka State, E India), Chhapra (Bihar State, N India), Bassein Fort near Vasai and Bombay (Maharashtra State, W India), and Dondra (S Sri Lanka) (Champion 1918).

_Ora nigropunctata_ (Motschulsky, 1863)


Described from Colombo in E Sri Lanka (Motschulsky 1863). Believed to be widely distributed in Oriental Region (reported from Java, Sumatra and Borneo by Champion 1918), although recent examination of materials from different regions of SE Asia have revealed that it is a member of a group of closely related, externally very similar species (author’s unpublished data). The group needs further revision.

_Scirtes maculatus_ Waterhouse, 1880

- W India, 30 IX-2 X 2005, Maharashtra state, Mahabaleshwar env., 70 km SSW of Pune, 1400 m, 1 ex., leg. J. Bezděk, coll. RRC.

Described from India, reported from Bombay and Kanara State (Champion 1918). Probably restricted to W India.

_Scirtes canescens_ Motschulsky, 1863

- NE Sri Lanka, Trincomalee, XI 1906, 1 ex., coll. NHM (locality reported by Champion 1918).

Described from Colombo in E Sri Lanka (Motschulsky 1863). Recorded by Champion (1918) from India (Chapra in Bengal, Pusa, Patkai Mts. in Assam and Nilgiri Hills), Sri Lanka (Trincomalee), Myanmar (Burma in orig.) and Thailand (Siam in orig.). Examination of specimens preserved in NHM and identified by Champion as _S. canescens_ revealed, that majority of them either belong to a distinct, and probably undescribed species, or are females that are unidentifiable at present state of knowledge. The only specimen properly identified by Champion originates from Trincomalee in Sri Lanka, what suggests that species is restricted to this island.
Scirtes tetrastigma Champion, 1918

- NE India, Meghalaya, SW of Cherrapunjee, 25°13’-14’N 91°40’E, 900 m, leg. L. Dembícký, 1-24 V 2005, 1 ex., coll. NHM.

Described from Patkai Mts. in Assam (NE India) (Champion 1918). Seems to be restricted to mountainous areas of NE India.

Acknowledgements

My studies on Scirtidae were supported by Synthesys-grants (FR-TAF-890, BE-TAF-1969, AT-TAF-2276). I wish to express my cordial thanks to curators: Maxwell Barclay (NHM), Jiří Hájek (NMPC), Manfred Jách (NMW), Otto Merkl (HMNH) and to coleopterists: Lech Borowiec, Jan Bezděk and Zbyněk Kejval for loans and gifts of material used in the present study. I am greatly indebted to Hiroyuki Yoshitomi (Sapporo, Japan) for his constant support.

References