

Review of the Genus *Chirodica* Germar

(Coleoptera-Chrysomelidae-Alticinae)

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Abstract

The South African genus *Chirodica* is reviewed. All data from literature are cited. A key is given for the species.

Genus *Chirodica* Germar

Chirodica Germar, 1834, IN Silbermann, Revue Entomologique 2: No. 16, T. 18. – Baly, 1876, Trans. Ent. Soc. London 1876 (3): 441. – Scherer, 1961, Ent. Arb. Mus. Frey 12 (1): 281.

Chirodica represents an endemic genus for South Africa.

Comparatively flat beetles.

Distance from eyes about three times as broad as one square diameter of one eye. Frontal longitudinal ridge penetrates between the broad quadrangular antennal calli which are touching only with one corner. The interantennal ridge broadens anteriorly.

Pronotum without antebasal impression, base can be flattened. Sides evenly rounded and narrowly margined; frontal angles more or less rectangular, not beveled.

Elytra confusely puctured with rarely a tendency to narrow longitudinal rows.

Anterior coxal cavities open. In larger species as *chalcoptera* four frontal femora also somewhat delated and middle and hind tibiae sidely edged at upperside, not so evidently in smaller species as *wollastoni*, here only hind tibiae somewhat edged. Hind femora distinctly enlarged.

Genotype: *Chirodica chalcoptera* Germar.

Key to the Species of the Genus *Chirodica* Germar

- 1 (4) Entire body brown:
- 2 (3) Entire body of the same shiny brownish color; length 2,5–3 mm: **fulva** Baly
- 3 (2) Head, pronotum, and legs brown, elytra more reddish brown; length 5 mm: **elongata** Baly
- 4 (1) Elytra black, dark pitch brown with metallic lustre or greenish-blueish metallic:
- 5 (6) Pronotum and elytra metallic purple, legs and antennae brown, the latter apically darkened; length about 3 mm: **fulvipes** Baly
- 6 (5) Only elytra metallic colored or black:
- 7 (10) Elytra black or dark pitch brown with metallic glance to greenish blue with metallic glance, and apically reddish:
- 8 (9) Elytra shiny black; head, thorax, and legs brown; about 3 mm: **wollastoni** Baly
- 9 (8) Elytra metallic pitch brown of blueish green, apices reddish brown; length 3,7–4,6 mm **chalcoptera** Germar
- 10 (7) Elytra entirely metallic green of blue:
- 11 (12) Smaller species, about 2 mm in length:
Elytra greenish blue; head, pronotum, legs, and four basal segments of antennae brown; base of pronotum somewhat depressed. **bicolor** Bryant
- 12 (11) Larger species, length 3–4 mm:
- 13 (14) Head black (labrum pale): pronotum impunctate:
Antennae flavous; sides of pronotum rounded and feebly margined: length 3,50 mm. **capensis** Bryant
- 14 (13) Head brown; pronotum distinctly punctate:
Basal 2–3 segments of antennae brown; sides and base of pronotum only moderately rounded; length 3,0–4,0 mm. **puncticollis** Jacoby

Chirodica bicolor Bryant

Chirodica bicolor Bryant, 1924, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 13 (9): 303.

Distribution: S. Africa, Cape Province, Mossel Bay.

Chirodica capensis Bryant

Chirodica capensis Bryant, 1959, S. Afr. anim. Life 6: 209, Fig. 7.

Distribution: S. Africa, Cape Province, Driver's Hill, 10 miles E of Grahamstown, 3. III. 1951.

Chirodica chalcoptera Germar

Chirodica chalcoptera Germar, 1834, IN Silbermann, Revue Entomologique 2: No. 16, T. 18. – Bryant, 1959, S. Afr. anim. Life 6: 209 (faun.).

Distribution: Cape of Good Hope without further data (type). – Cape Prov., Cape Peninsula, Kirstenbosch, 6. VII. 1951 (Bryant, 1959). – Stellenbosch, 27. 4. 1981, leg. D. I. Rust (National Coll. Ins. Pretoria).

Chirodica elongata Baly

Chirodica elongata Baly, 1876, Trans. Ent. Soc. London 1876 (3): 442.

Distribution: Cape of Good Hope without further data (type).

Chirodica fulva Baly

Chirodica fulva Baly, 1876, Trans. Ent. Soc. London 1876 (3): 442.

Distribution: Cape of Good Hope without further data (type).

Chirodica fulvipes Baly

Chirodica fulvipes Baly, 1876, Trans. Ent. Soc. London 1876 (3): 441.

Distribution: Cape of Good Hope without further data (type).

Chirodica puncticollis Jacoby

Chirodica puncticollis Jacoby, 1900, Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1900: 249.

Distribution: Mashonaland: Salisbury.

Chirodica wollastoni Baly

Chirodica wollastoni Baly, 1876, Trans. Ent. Soc. London 1876: 442. – Bryant, 1959, S. Afr. anim. Life 6: 209.

Chirodica fulvicornis Jacoby, 1900, Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1900: 250. Bryant, 1923, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 12 (9): 140 (syn.).

Distribution: Type, Cape of Good Hope without further data. – For the type locality of *Ch. fulvicornis* W. Africa without further data is given. – Cape Prov.: Cape Peninsula, Kirstenbosch, 6. VII. 1951 (Bryant, 1959). – S. Africa: Kogelberg, 6. 1965, leg. D. J. Rust.

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