



The identity of *Languria femoralis* Motschulsky (Coleoptera: Erotylidae: Languriinae)

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In her monograph of North American Languriidae (= Erotylidae: Languriinae), Vaurie (1948) noted that Motschulsky (1860: 242) described the species *Languria femoralis* from New Orleans, Louisiana, but Vaurie did not examine the type. No additional information has been published on this species. The original description, reproduced here, states:

“une espèce allongée, très voisine de la *bicolor*, mais avec la tête bronzée comme les élytres; l’abdomen tout noir et les pattes rousses et foncées seulement à l’extrémité des cuisses et sur les tarses; corselet nullement rétréci en arrière, mais allongé, trapézoïdiforme, avec sa partie la plus large aux angles postérieurs, qui sont un peu aigus et saillants; taille d’un tiers plus petite que celle de la *bicolor*; je l’ai trouvée aux environs de la Nouvelle-Orléans.”

[“an elongate species, very close to *bicolor*, but with the head bronzed like the elytra; abdomen uniformly black and legs brownish-red, dark only at the end of the femora and on the tarsi; pronotum not at all narrowed behind, elongate, trapeziform, with its broadest part at the hind angles, which are a little acute and projecting; size one-third smaller than *bicolor*; I found it around New Orleans.”]

Vaurie (1948: 143) synonymized *L. femoralis* with *L. collaris* LeConte, 1854, based on the original description. We were able to obtain the type, housed in the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University (ZMUM), Russia, and compared it with specimens representing all southern U.S. species of *Languria*. No additional types were examined, but the species to which we compared *L. femoralis* are widespread and well understood based on Vaurie’s revisionary work. We also compared it with specimens of an unidentified species from the vicinity of New Orleans. We originally thought these unidentified specimens might be *L. femoralis* because the type locality of that species is New Orleans, but they are completely different from *L. femoralis* in coloration and metaventral punctation. These unidentified specimens represent a new species that will be described in a separate publication. Using Vaurie’s (1948) monograph, we keyed the type of *L. femoralis* and compared it with the species descriptions. The type (**Figs. 1–2**) was card mounted (now remounted on a point), in good condition, and bears the following labels: “[red square] / [green circle] / *Languria femoralis* Motsh. Am. b. N. Orleans.” Motschulsky’s description is misleading, in that he describes the abdomen as “uniformly black” when, in fact, the basal three ventrites are red and the apical two are piceous (**Fig. 2**). We concluded that *L. femoralis* is not conspecific with either *L. collaris* or the new species. Vaurie must have overlooked Motschulsky’s description of the femora as dark “only at the end” (**Fig. 1**), because in *L. collaris* the femora are uniformly piceous. These characters, along with the nearly impunctate metaventrite, five-segmented antennal club, piceous head, and bicolored femora, place it as *Languria angustata* (Beauvois, 1805).

Languria femoralis Motschulsky, 1860 = *Languria angustata* (Beauvois, 1805), revised synonymy

Languria angustata is a variable species widespread in the eastern United States, ranging west to Iowa and Texas. It was redescribed twice, first as *L. pulchra* LeConte, 1854, and later as *L. uhlerii* Horn, 1862. Vaurie recognized these as color morphs and commented that *L. marginipennis* Schwarz, 1878, may also be conspecific with *L. angustata*.



FIGURE 1–2. Holotype of *Languria femoralis* Motschulsky. 1, dorsal; 2, ventral view.

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