The family Scirtidae contains about 600 species throughout the world, but most of them are found in temperate zones. Six genera and 26 species are known from Canada and Alaska. Adults are collected, often in large numbers, on vegetation in wet habitats, particularly marshes, bogs and swamps, and at lights. Larvae are aquatic and feed on fungi, algae, diatoms and other organic matter.

Most Canadian species are well-known except those of the genus Cyphon which is in need of revision. Species of this family, as part of the Dascillidae, were last reviewed by Horn (1880); several species occurring in Canada, however, were reviewed by Klausnitzer (1976). Klausnitzer (1980) also segregated some species formerly assigned to Elodes to form his new genus Flavohelodes.

Genus ELODES Latreille
Hemicyphon LeConte
Sacodes LeConte

E. angusta Hatch BC
E. apicalis LeConte BC
E. emarginata Hatch
E. maculicollis Horn PQ NS NF

Genus FLAVOHELODES Klausnitzer

F. fuscipennis (Guérin-Méneville) ON
F. pulchella (Guérin-Méneville)
F. thoracica (Guérin-Méneville)

Genus MICROCARA C.G.Thomson
M. explanata LeConte MB ON PQ NB

Genus CYPHON Paykull

C. brevicollis (LeConte) BC
C. collaris (Guérin-Méneville)
C. concinnus (LeConte) BC AB PQ NB
C. confusus W.J.Brown ON PQ
C. exigus Horn BC
C. modestus (LeConte) C PQ
C. nebulosus (LeConte) ON PQ
C. neovariabilis Klausnitzer ON PQ NB NF
C. ochreatus Klausnitzer ON PQ NB NS NF
C. punctatus (LeConte) BC
C. pusillus (LeConte) BC
C. ruficolis (Say)
C. variabilis (Thunberg) AK YK NT BC AB SK MB ON PQ NB NS NF

Genus PRIONOCYPHON Redtenbacher

P. discoideus (Say) ON PQ
P. limbatus LeConte ON PQ NB

Genus SCIRTES Illiger

S. orbiculatus (Fabricius) ON PQ
S. tibialis Guérin-Méneville ON PQ NB