Diversity in Peru: 1 tribe, 18 genera, 158 species.

Recognition: Most chrysomelines have a hemispherical shape: strongly arched dorsally and rather flat ventrally. They are ovoid or round in dorsal profile and are distinguished from other subfamilies by a membranous basal part of the labrum. This is often difficult to see, but a second characteristic of most Neotropical Chrysomelinae are compound eyes that appear narrow and slanted outwardly in dorsal view. The third tarsal segment in Chrysomelinae is undivided, which distinguishes them from the Eumolpinae which have this segment deeply cleft. Larvae are open leaf feeders and many species are gregarious. Several species are also subsocial, with mothers guarding their broods (Chaboo et al., 2014).

Neotropical Chrysomelinae are among the most colorful Neotropical forest insects and have been a favorite of collectors during the classical era of natural history collecting. However, for most species almost nothing is known beyond the scientific name and type locality. The largest species are in the genera Doryphora Illiger and Platyphora Gistel which are recognized by protruding horns on the venter of the thorax. In one species of Doryphora, males have been observed using their prosternal horns in combat (Eberhard, 1981), but no observations of the many species of Platyphora (with horns ranging from long and thin to mere stubs) have been made.

Habitat: Adults and larvae are open leaf feeders and in many species both life stages can be found on the host plant. Some species have maternal care and larvae that display a behavior known as cycloalexy—bunching up together with heads pointing outward—as a deterrent to predators (Jolivet and Verma, 2005; Drury et al., 2014; Chaboo, 2014). Ovovivipary is known in some species of Platyphora, and larval cannibalism has been documented in Leptinotarsa decimlineata (Say) as well as in six other genera (Mafra–Neto and Jolivet, 1996). Host plants are varied, at least for the relatively few species where host plants are known, but Solanaceae seems to be a favored plant family in Leptinotarsa Chevrolat and Platyphora, while Doryphora is restricted to Apocynaceae (Windsor et al., 2013). Although L. decimlineata is a world-wide pest of potatoes, it has not invaded South or Lower Central America and the highlands of Peru are one of the very few potato producing areas of the world that have escaped the depredations of this beetle.

Notes: In the following list, we follow the classification of Seeno and Wilcox (1982) which divides the Chrysomelinae into two tribes: Timarchini and Chrysomelini. Only Chrysomelini are found in Peru. Flowers (2005) determined that the genera Leptinotarsa and Stilodes Chevrolat cannot be reliably separated; based on dates provided in Blackwelder (1944) and Seeno and Wilcox (1982), he synonymized the two under the apparently earlier name Stilodes. Subsequently Daccordi (2008)