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Bees of the Genus Nomada, Belonging to the Group of N. depressa Cresson

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Bees of the genus Nomada, belonging to the group of N. depressa Cresson.

By T. D. Ä. Cockerell.

In 1863 (Proc. Ent. Soc. Phil.), Cresson described a female Nomada from Maine as N. depressa, characterized especially by the possession of a depressed velvety or pubescent area on the apex of the fifth abdominal segment, much after the manner of Triepeolus. Later, this insect was treated as a variety of N. bisignata; but it is not only a valid species, but perhaps deserving of subgeneric rank. It typifies a little group, of which four species are known, separable as follows:

Depressed area on fifth segment very broad; pygidial plate very broad; antennae entirely red, except a small black spot on scape above; mesothorax red, with one black band .... 1.

Depressed area much narrower, so that the space between it and the base of segment at sides is as great as or greater than width of area .... 2.

1. Length about 8 mm.; wings reddish, darker apically, with a subapical hyaline patch; stigma clear ferruginous; third antennal joint distinctly shorter than fourth; second abdominal segment with a very large bright yellow patch on each side; third, fourth and fifth also each with a pair of yellow marks, growing successively smaller and closer together (Falls Church, Virginia, May 20, Nathan Banks) .......... N. depressicauda n. sp.

Length about 9 mm.; wings dusky along the veins; stigma dark reddish; third antennal joint subequal with fourth; second abdominal segment with small and obscure yellow spots, the others without yellow (Mt. Hood, Oregon). N. hoodiana Ckll., 1903.

2. "Length 8½ mm.; mesothorax light reddish-brown, with median longitudinal black stripe; metathorax red, with median black stripe, sides at base black; as much space between the flattened area and base of segment at sides as the area is wide" (Maine) .......... N. depressa Cresson.

Length about 10 mm.; mesothorax dark red, with a black band; metathorax black, with six red spots, the upper pair in the enclosure, the middle pair rather obscure and more or less confluent with the upper; distinctly more space between the flattened area and base of segment at sides than area is wide (Lehigh Gap, Pa., June 30, Viereck) .......... N. skinneri n. sp.

The last is the supposed N. depressa referred to in Proc. Phila. Acad., 1903, p. 608. I am greatly indebted to Dr.
Skinner and Mr. Fox for examining Cresson's type of *N. depressa*, and reporting the characters given above. All these insects have simple mandibles; Mr. Viereck kindly examined Cresson's type of *depressa* in respect to its mandibles some years ago.

*N. depressicauda* agrees with the description of *hoodiana* (Proc. Phila. Acad., 1903, p. 608) in practically every character except those given in the table. The third submarginal cell, however, is less narrowed above.

*N. skinneri* is quite a dark insect, with the middle of face and front (not involving the clypeus) black; flagellum strongly dusky, but clear red at extreme apex; third antennal joint a little shorter than fourth; second abdominal segment with a large yellow mark on each side, third with yellow dots; apical and basal margins of the segments infuscated; pygidial plate broad, but not so broad at apex as that of *N. depressiuscula*; basal nervure going a moderate distance basad of t. m.

The type has the upper half of the second transverso-cubital wanting on both side.

### Numerical Distribution of Some Insects.

**By Owen Shoemaker Paxson, Devon, Pa.**

The following notes were compiled during the summer of 1905, excepting in a very few instances as stated. In recording them, I walked a mile and a quarter from home to a small pond and back again over the same route. Thus day after day I confined myself almost exclusively to this ground. It consisted of about one-quarter mile of macadamized roads, five-eighths of untilled fields and one-eighth of plowed land in corn, one-quarter in woods and the usual surroundings of a small pond on the edge of a copse.

I think the scarcity of some species in my list is alone accountable by the fact of their comparative or almost total seclusion in nature. The Coleoptera are represented so well on account of the fact that they are my favorite order, and consequently were pursued more closely and continuously. Even here, however, there are many instances where their ways or