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## Some Neotropical Megachilid Bees

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## Subfamily MIRINÆ. Tribe MYRMECORINI.

**Pithanus maerkelii** Herrick-Schaeffer.

This interesting Mirid was first reported from the United States by Mr. C. E. Olsen (Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc., 10 : 34) who took specimens on Long Island, N. Y. A specimen was taken next at White Plains, N. Y., by Mr. Torre Bueno, and during the past year the writer received a specimen from Mr. H. M. Parshley, collected at Eastport, Maine, by Mr. C. W. Johnson.

The writer took ♂, 11 ♀'s, June 27, 1916, at Honeoye Falls, N. Y., and other specimens were taken at the same time by Mr. Wm. T. Davis who was present on the trip. The species was swept from grasses growing along the edge of land set to nursery stock, and thus may have been imported locally at that place. The writer took one female specimen which had fully developed wings, and this form is, according to Saunders (British Heteroptera, p. 219), "very rare."

*Species of Doubtful occurrence in North America.*

The writer has recently completed a revision of the genus *Lygus*, and during the course of researches on the material from North America came to the conclusion that the records of *Lygus contaminatus* Fallen, *Lygus lucorum* Meyer, and *Lygus viridis* Fallen, have been cited in error. In the case of *Lygus viridis* Reuter (1909), the writer was able to study one of the specimens and finds it to be different from the European *viridis* Fallen: having structural points of difference which will be shown in the forthcoming paper on *Lygus*. The writer has studied European specimens of the above species which were determined by Reuter, and are now to be found in the collection of the U. S. National Museum. The records of *contaminatus* and *lucorum* have doubtless been based on certain colour forms of *Lygus apicalis* which species has a wide distribution in North America.

**Neobothynotus modestus** Wirtner (Ent. News, 28 : 33, 34).

The writer is unable after a careful study of the literature to find generic points of difference between *Neobothynotus* Wirtner and *Bothynotus* Fieber. Furthermore, the description of *N. modestus* Wirtner does not appear to differ from the description of *Bothynotus pilosus* Boheman, which species is well described by

Reuter (Hemip. Gym. Eur., V, p. 7) and Saunders (British Heteroptera, p. 263). The writer strongly suspects, though regretfully, that the above represents an importation of *Bothynotus pilosus* Boheman on some of the shrubbery in Col. Huff's park.

### SOME NEOTROPICAL MEGACHILID BEES.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL, BOULDER, COLO.

The specimens recorded below are in the U. S. National Museum.

#### ***Anthidium chubuti* Cockerell.**

Both sexes from Chubut, Patagonia (from W. F. H. Rosenberg). There is great variation in size, and the femora may show much or little black. The male, not previously known, differs by having the clypeus and space between clypeus and eyes, and mandibles except apex (which is bidentate) and extreme base pale yellow; vertex with either a complete band or a pair of spots; face with pure white hair; greater part of pleura with pure white hair, but posteriorly it is black; vertex, mesothorax and scutellum (except posteriorly) with fulvous hair; occiput and metathorax with black hair, front with sooty; marks on abdomen variable, the posterior three pairs may be reduced to spots. The large male has a small third tooth on the mandibles. *A. patagonicum* Schrottky, published about a month and a half later, is evidently the same species.

#### ***Anthidium rubripes* Friese.**

*Male*.—Mendoza, Argentina (*C. S. Reed*). The hair on head and thorax is white, not "yellowish brown," as Friese describes; but the insect otherwise agrees, and there is no other species from Mendoza like it. The species is closely allied to *A. chubuti*, but narrower and quite distinct. The male mandibles are bidentate at end, and have on inner side a large, black, triangular plate.

#### ***Hypanthidium taboganum*, sp. n.**

♂, (Type). Length 7-8 mm.; black and bright chrome yellow, only the tegulae, knees, scape behind (in front yellow) and base of flagellum red; head and thorax extremely densely punctured, with scanty hair, that on head and thorax above fox-red; yellow markings as follows: mandibles except apex, clypeus,

July, 1917.

dog-ear marks, band like lateral face-marks (ending in point at level of middle ocellus), entire occipital band going half-way down cheeks, small spot on tubercles, lateral and anterior margins of mesothorax (except a wide interval on anterior middle), axillæ, broad hind margin of scutellum, anterior and middle tibiæ and basitarsi; in front, elongate basal and transverse apical mark on hind tibiæ, hind basitarsi in front and spot on second tarsal joint, oblique mark at extreme sides of second abdominal segment, and all of the other segments except extreme base and translucent reddish apical margin; mesopleura with large, distinctly separated punctures; wings dilute fuliginous, apicostal region darker; first three abdominal segments finely punctured, the others with large punctures; no lateral spines; seventh segment very broadly rounded, with a median pit. The anterior femora may be red above except at base.

♀.—Similar, but clypeus black, mandibles with only a small, yellow spot, no dog-ear marks, more red hair on scutellum, yellow of legs reduced and more or less reddened, hind tibiæ black except a small basal spot, all the basitarsi black, anterior femora with a yellowish-red band on apical half; yellow bands of abdomen narrower, the fourth notched behind. Ventral scopa shining white.

*Hab.*—Taboga Island, Panama, June 9 and 11, 1911, (*A. Busck*); also one Feb. 19, 1912, (*A. Busck*). Related to *H. aureocinctum* and *H. panamense*, but easily separated by the yellow and black legs and absence of discal stripes on mesothorax. From the descriptions, it seems also to be somewhat allied to the *Anthidium mexicanum* and *A. agnatum* of Cresson; these species have been supposed to belong to *Dianthidium*, but the types should be examined to see if they are possibly *Hypanthidium*.

#### ***Hypanthidium melanopterum*, sp. n.**

♀.—Length about 8 mm.; black and chrome yellow; yellow markings as follows: lateral face-marks (consisting of a large patch on each side of antennæ, sending a narrow stripe upward along orbits), entire occipital band going a little way down cheeks, narrow anterolateral margins of mesothorax, rather narrow band bordering scutellum and axillæ, slightly broken band on first abdominal segment, small mark on each side of second, entire bands on third

to sixth, on sixth covering segment except margin; tegulae bright ferruginous; wings fuliginous; legs black, the anterior femora (except basally) and tibiae red in front; a small, red tubercle below each eye; scape yellow in front, otherwise red with a dusky shade; base of flagellum (and under side more or less) red; ventral scopa glittering white. Mesothorax densely and strongly punctured.

*Hab.*—Mexico (Baker collection 2154). Easily known from *H. taboganum* by the band on first abdominal segment. It is allied to *H. ecuadorium* (Friese), but easily separated by the shape of lateral face-marks, less projecting and much more narrowly margined scutellum, very coarse punctures of thorax above (especially large on scutellum), entirely black tubercles, etc.

***Stelis veraecrucis*, sp. n.**

♀.—Length about 7 mm.; black, with yellow markings as follows: clypeus except a very large semicircular area above (the yellow area thus like two mountains with a valley between), narrow lateral face-marks extending a little above level of antennae, a small, elongate spot at inner upper side of each antennal socket, a very narrow, occipital band, scutellum and axillae except anterior border, (no other yellow on thorax), and entire bands on abdominal segments 3 to 6; legs very dark reddish-brown, without markings; tegulae black; wings fuliginous, the costal region darkest, second recurrent nervure going far beyond end of second submarginal cell; abdomen partly obscure reddish beneath at base; venter with short, white hair. Antennae black, with red spot at apex of scape, and third joint red beneath; head and thorax above with excessively large, crowded punctures, on mesothorax so large that a line from anterior to posterior end traverses only about a dozen; scutellum prominent; base of metathorax with a transverse band of large pits.

*Hab.*—Medellin, Vera Cruz, Mexico (*H. H. Hyde*; Baker coll. 1785). For the interpretation of this Baker number see Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., Feb. 1905, p. 201. Nearest to *S. laticincta* Cress., but very distinct by the large punctures of thorax, first two abdominal segments all black, etc. The insect has a close superficial resemblance to the two species of *Hypanthidium* described above.



## BOOK NOTICE.

A Year of Costa Rican Natural History, by Amelia Smith Calvert, Sometime Fellow in Biology, Bryn Mawr College, and Philip Powell Calvert, Professor of Zoölogy, University of Pennsylvania. The Macmillan Co., New York; The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto Feb, 1917. xix+577 pp., with maps and numerous illustrations from photographs, including coloured frontispiece. Price \$3.00.

The single year (May 1, 1909 to May 10, 1910) spent by Professor and Mrs. Calvert in Costa Rica was a full one indeed, to judge by this interesting chronicle of their experiences in that remarkable land. To have gathered, in a single year, the vast quantity of information contained within its pages must have demanded great concentration of effort, both mental and physical. This information concerns not only the animals and plants of the country, in which the authors were chiefly interested, but also the climate and topography, the life and customs of the people, conditions and methods of travel, and many other matters of interest to the visitor.

As the main object of the trip was the study of the dragonflies of the country, the references to these insects are proportionately numerous, and among the more interesting discoveries in this field were the finding and rearing of the larvæ of *Mecistogaster modestus*, which breeds in the water between the leaves of epiphytic bromeliads (plants belonging to the Bromeliaceæ or Pine-apple family), the larva of *Cora*, which possesses lateral abdominal gills, recalling those of the mayflies and Sialids; and the habits of certain waterfall dwellers belonging to the genera *Thaumatoneura* and *Argia*. These have already been described at length by Dr. Calvert in a series of papers published in the Entomological News.

A great many other matters of interest to entomologists were brought to light, not only concerning dragonflies but numerous other groups of insects, e. g., observations on the swarming and migratory flights of butterflies and day-flying moths, the habits of leaf-cutting ants and the curious relationship between the ants found upon the Bull's Horn Thorn and their host tree, interesting cases of apparent mimicry and protective coloration, curious and striking insects of various kinds, such as the huge horn-bearing Scarabæidæ, (*Dynastes*, *Megaceros*, etc.), strange lepidopterous

larvæ, particularly the weird caterpillars of some of the Megalopygid moths; and hosts of other observations of interest to students in all branches of entomology.

Much is also told of the birds, reptiles, mammals and other animals observed, while the descriptive notes on the plants, illustrated by numerous photographs, will not only be of interest to botanists, but will be of much value in giving to the general reader a mental picture of the types of vegetation, characteristic of tropical America.

Among the most interesting chapters is the one describing the ascent of the volcano Irazu, which gives a detailed account of the volcano itself with its various craters and many notes on the plants and animals observed there; and the final chapter, dealing with the destruction of Cartago by earthquakes in the spring of 1910, just at the close of the authors' year in Costa Rica. Cartago was chosen as their headquarters, from which excursions to various parts of the country were made, the materials collected being always brought here and kept in a room in the hotel, which served as a laboratory. One of the early chapters (chap. 4) is devoted to a description of the town and its life, as it existed before the earthquake, while the last chapter, "Carthago deleta est," gives a vivid and detailed picture of this terrible event, in which the entire town was wrecked and nearly 300 people were killed, the authors themselves suffering a very narrow escape. Fortunately, although the living larvæ, which represented the rearings of many months, were nearly all killed, the preserved specimens, notes, journals and photographs were uninjured.

The book is remarkable for the extreme care and accuracy which characterize both matter and typography. The authors have not been content merely to state their own experiences, but have acquainted themselves with a large body of literature treating of the various subjects upon which they have written. One of the most useful features of the book is the copious bibliography contained in Appendices III and IV, the former giving a list of "papers based in whole or in part on the collections made by the authors in Costa Rica," the latter "a list of selected literature relating chiefly to the Natural History of Costa Rica, exclusive of that cited in Appendix III."

Mailed July 2nd, 1917.