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A Remarkable New Bee of the Genus Oxaea (Hym.).

By T. D. A. Cockerell, Boulder, Colorado.

I have just received a bee, collected by Dr. Eugenio Gio­comelli, at La Rioja, Argentina, which looks like a Centris, but actually belongs to the rare genus Oxaea. The superficial resemblance to Centris is such that I began running it through the tables for that genus, until I noticed the entirely different venation. We appear to have an excellent case of Müllerian mimicry.

Oxaea haematura n. sp.

♀. Length, 19 mm.; head black, with white hair, short fuscous hair on occiput; facial quadrangle about as broad as long; eyes green; labrum with a strong median ridge, the upper part of which is grooved; clypeus closely punctured but shining; antennae black; thorax black, very densely covered with hair as in the similar species of Centris, this hair dorsally bright fulvous, ventrally creamy-white; tegulae clear fulvous; wings strongly dusky, nervures piceous; legs black; hind tibiae and tarsi with stiff black hair, but the tibiae with a large loose white scopæ beneath; abdomen with the first four segments brilliant blood-red, dull, hairless, almost impunctate, but the second segment shows fine punctures; fifth segment black, glistening, well punctured, posteriorly with a thick black fringe, and on each side with a tuft of creamy-white hair; apex with black hair; apical plate very broad, the middle portion elevated; venter dark, the first three segments with bright ferruginous hind margins.

Quite unlike any other Oxaea; nearest to the Brazilian O. rufa Friese, which has dark-brown hair, and is considerably larger.

Type in the writer’s collection.