

NEW SPECIES OF NORTH AMERICAN MYRMELIONIDAE.—I.

BY ROLLA P. CURRIE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Brachynemurus Coquilletti, new species.

Male.—Length, 33 mm.; expanse of wings, 44 mm.*; greatest width of anterior wing, 5.6 mm.; length of antenna, 6 mm.; luteous, marked with dark fuscous; clothed with white hairs, thickly so on abdomen; apical segments of abdomen with some black hairs among the white ones.

Face flat, luteous, bordered above by a pitchy-black band separating the antennae and narrowly bordering them in front and on the outer side; a longitudinal median black line extends from this band almost to the clypeus. Circum-ocular area luteous, except along the anterior portion of the vertex, where it is fuscous, and on the margin next the eye, opposite the middle of anterior joint of maxillary palpiger, where there is a fuscous spot. Clypeus rather short, luteous, on either side anteriorly an impressed spot; above, a few black bristles. Labrum transverse, luteous; rounded laterally and narrowed anteriorly, nearly straight in front, where it is sparsely clothed with light-coloured hairs. Mandibles piceous, black at tips.

Maxillary palpi of moderate length, luteous; first two joints short, about as broad as long, subequal; third joint a little longer than first two together, somewhat curved, enlarged apically; fourth joint a little shorter than third; last joint as long as third, slightly fusiform (a little swollen medially), apically piceous; tip truncate, pale.

Labial palpi about same length as maxillary, luteous; first joint twice as long as broad; second joint about twice as long as first, curved, enlarged apically; apical joint as long as second, fusiform, strongly narrowed apically, where it is piceous; sparsely clothed with dark hairs; tip fine, truncate, pale.

Maxillary palpigers luteous. Labium and labial palpigers luteous. Mentum luteous, with a longitudinal median dark line, at the posterior end of which is a long bristle†. Gula luteous.

Antennae clavate, as long as head and thorax, luteous, joints with a fuscous ring at base, clothed with some very short dark hairs or bristles; the two basal joints luteous, clouded with piceous; basal joint set in a yellow ring which is widest in front.

*One specimen, a co-type, collected at San Simon, Arizona, July 5, 1897, by Mr. H. G. Hubbard, expands only 41 mm.

†This bristle is not apparent in some specimens.

Vertex elevated behind, rounded, luteous; post-antennal area fuscous; two transverse fuscous bands on elevated portion; these bands merge into one along the middle third*; a short fuscous prolongation posteriorly along the longitudinal median furrow.

Pronotum as broad as long, narrowed anteriorly, sparsely clothed with rather long white hairs, more thickly so on margins; sides sinuate, front emarginate; anterior angles rounded; luteous, a longitudinal fuscous band each side of middle line; these bands are approximate or coalescent behind the transverse furrow, more widely separated before it; another longitudinal fuscous band on the outer side of each middle one, behind the transverse furrow. Lateral carinae luteous. Beneath luteous, a longitudinal fuscous streak on each side near carina.

Mesothorax sparsely clothed with white hairs; lobes of dorsum strongly elevated; anterior lobe fuscous, a spot each side, and one at posterior margin medially, luteous; lateral lobes fuscous, a few luteous spots near the articulation of wings; on each of these lateral lobes a luteous triangle whose apex terminates near the mid-dorsal line; posterior lobe, luteous, a longitudinal median fuscous streak which is wider anteriorly; posterior angles luteous, each with a U-shaped fuscous streak. Below mostly fuscous, at base of wings and legs luteous.

Metathorax sparsely clothed with white hairs; dorsum with lobes less elevated than those of mesothorax; anterior lobe luteous, with a U- or V-shaped fuscous marking; lateral lobes each with a luteous triangle similar to those on corresponding lobes of mesonotum; base of wings above fuscous; posterior lobe similar to that of mesonotum. Sides and below mostly fuscous; bases of legs and wings, and a few spots, fuscous.

Abdomen longer than wings, slender, thickly clothed with white hairs, a few black ones apically, fuscous, the basal segments above luteous with a median black line.

Appendages short, half as broad as long, one-fourth the length of last segment, cylindrical, obtuse on tip, luteous; clothed with long black hairs or bristles; between the appendages below, a short triangular luteous plate.

*In one specimen, a co-type, collected in Los Angeles County, California, by Mr. Albert Koebele, the bands are interrupted at the longitudinal median furrow; in another co-type, collected July 5, 1897, at San Simon, Arizona, by Mr. H. G. Hubbard, these bands are almost entirely merged into one.

Legs of moderate length, luteous, sparsely sprinkled with black or brownish-black at bases of hairs and spines; sparsely clothed with dark hairs and beset with long black spines. Tibial spurs as long as first three tarsal joints, moderately curved, rufo-piceous. Apices of tarsal joints black, third and fourth joints entirely so. Claws as long as fifth tarsal joint, moderately curved, rufo-piceous.

Wings somewhat falcate at tips, hyaline, clothed on venation, and sparsely on membrane, with dark hairs; posterior borders of wings subapically strongly arcuate, almost angulate, making the wings quite broad before tips. Pterostigma luteous, on inner side a black spot formed by junction of sub-costal and median veins; before the pterostigma a few intercostals forked. Principal longitudinal veins luteous, interrupted at junctures of transversals with black; a longitudinal vein between median and submedian entirely luteous; other longitudinal veins and transversals fuscous, interrupted with luteous.

Anterior wings with the anterior transversals springing from the submedian vein above, and some other veins posterior to it, with small fuscous spots; posterior wings shorter than anterior, immaculate. Posterior borders of both wings fringed with dark hairs.

Female.—Length, 25 mm.; expanse of wings, 44 mm.; greatest width of anterior wing, 6 mm.; length of antenna, 5 mm.*

Antennae more clavate than in male. Abdomen a litter shorter than anterior wings, not luteous on basal segments above; tip luteous; superior parts split, clothed with long dark hairs and beset with coarse black spines at apex; below, two short, cylindrical appendages, clothed with long dark hairs.

Type.—No. 3814, U. S. National Museum. One male, collected July 5, 1897, at San Simon, Arizona, by Mr. H. G. Hubbard.

No. 3814a, U. S. National Museum. One female collected in San Bernardino County, California, by Mr. D. W. Coquillett.

Cotypes.—Collection U. S. National Museum. Two males, one with antennae and apical segments of abdomen gone, collected July 5, 1897, at San Simon, Arizona, by Mr. H. G. Hubbard; one male with fragmentary abdomen, collected in August, in Los Angeles County, Cali-

*This is a small specimen; a female, co-type, from Los Angeles County, California, collected in August by Mr. Albert Koebelc, is 29 mm. in length and expands 51 mm. A third specimen, also a female co-type, from the same locality, collected in July by the same person, is slightly smaller than this latter.

foria, by Mr. Albert Koebele; two females collected by the latter in Los Angeles County, California, one in July the other in August.

This species is peculiar chiefly through the shape of the wings, and through the very slender abdomen. Luteous is the prevailing colour in the males, fuscous in the females. The male appendages are very similar, in size and shape, to those of *B. longipalpis*.

CONCERNING TICKS.

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The other day a distinguished artist friend of mine called upon me with a small bottle containing some whiskey, which by its odour I judged was good, when he first took it from his flask, and in it was what he denominated a "bug." He told me that he had experienced "one of the most wonderful adventures of his life" in connection with the specimen he put before me, and went on to tell me that during the past summer, while sketching in the mountains, he had discovered one evening, when undressing, a small, dark swelling on his breast. He thought it to be a little abnormal growth on the skin and paid no attention to it. From time to time he noticed it afterwards, when retiring, and found to his considerable alarm that it was gradually growing larger, and evil thoughts of cancer, tumors, and what not, began to float through his mind. Finally, after some two weeks had passed, one evening, as he expressed it, "while fooling with the darned thing it came off." He laid it down on the dressing-case before him and was presently astounded to see it slowly crawling away from the spot. Then a small bottle was sought out, the whiskey flask was brought into requisition, and the "bug" was safely bottled, to be referred to me for an explanation. This proved not difficult to give. The specimen was a well-developed example of *Ixodes albipictus*, Packard. We had a hearty laugh together, and my friend assured me that he "would know better the next time, and not let such creatures establish such a lengthy abode upon his person." His adventure recalled to me a letter which I have long had in my possession, intending to publish it, as it is very well written, and adds a touch of humour to the subject. The specimen referred to in the letter is in my collection, and proves to be an example of *Ixodes bovis*, a very common plague in the south-western part of this country. The writer of the letter, a young friend of mine, says:

"I had no idea that my bug was of interest to anybody but myself, but I assure you I was glad to let him go.