7. Sphäriodesmus coriaceus, sp. n. (Tab. IX. figg. 4–4 b.)

Colour a fairly uniform testaceus. Form robust and convex as in S. oniscus. Segments very decidedly coriaceus and subgranular, much more coarsely so than in the other species. General shape of the segments and their keels very much as in S. oniscus, except that the second and third tergal plates have the anterior rim more strongly raised, as if the surface had been excavated just behind it, and the fourth, instead of sloping gradually and gently downwards from back to front, is somewhat abruptly depressed in its anterior portion, so that laterally the keels recall to a certain extent those of the Glomeridae. Hairs on legs longer and fewer.

First leg of male unmodified. Sterna of fifth and sixth narrow, noticeably less in width than the length of the second segment of the legs, about as wide as the width of the first segment of the legs. Socket of phallopods small, not extending laterally nearly so far as the adjoining spiniform tubercle; its edge not raised. Sternal area between posterior legs of seventh segment about equal to length of second segment of legs. Basal segments of phallopods smaller, much less strongly inclined inwards; the distal segment stoutish in its proximal half, with a low eminence on its upper side; distal portion slender, attenuated, unbranched, strongly curled upwards and a little outwards, and ending in a simple point.

Length 20 millim., width 7-5.

Hab. Guatemala, San Juan in Alta Vera Paz (Champion).

The following species are known to me only from figures and descriptions:—

8. Sphæriodesmus mexicanus.


Colour black (when alive). Segments smooth and polished. Body parallel-sided, semicircularly rounded at the posterior end, strongly convex. Keels of fourth and fifth segments very similar in form, but, according to Cook’s figure, those of the fourth slightly more slender and with the anterior border more strongly convex and the posterior more strongly concave. The keels of the rest of the segments apparently very like those of S. oniscus; the posterior border of the keel of the eighteenth forming a widely rounded angle with the posterior border of the tergal portion.

First leg of male modified; femur thick and arched, with a large basal tuberculiform tooth; the under side of the following segment hollowed basally. Tibio-femoral segment of phallopod with a submedian larger or smaller tooth above; its distal end somewhat abruptly curved upwards and backwards and subequally bifid apically.

Length 32–33 millim., width 12–13.

Hab. Mexico, Cordova 1 2, Orizaba 5, Vera Cruz 4.

This species, the type of the genus, is the largest hitherto recorded, although not much larger than S. robustus, which it closely resembles in form. The phallopods of the two, however, are totally different. Unfortunately neither Cook, Attems, nor Carl give any information regarding the shape of the rim of the socket of the phallopods, nor of the width of the sternal areas of the sixth and seventh segments.