This family at present consists of about fifty species of aquatic carnivorous Coleoptera, and is probably as well represented in the northern and temperate as it is in the tropical regions. It is of wide distribution; but only one or two species are yet known from South America, while, on the other hand, North America has furnished a considerable proportion of the forms at present extant in our collections.

_CNEMIDOTUS._

_Cnemidotus_, Illiger, Mag. Ins. i. p. 373 (1802).

This is a small genus of about eight species, but has a wide extension in the northern hemisphere, from Europe to Japan and China on the one side, and to North America, east and west, on the other.

1. _Cnemidotus simplex._


_Hab._ NORTH AMERICA, San Diego¹.—MEXICO, Guanajuato (_Dugès, coll. Sallé_), Jalapa and Oaxaca (_Höge_).

The Mexican individuals depart considerably from Californian specimens, being much narrower and with less coarse sculpture; the Guanajuato specimens, however, differ considerably from the large series found by Höge, and approach more nearly to the Californian individuals; so that the superficial characters above mentioned, unaccompanied as they are by any structural distinctions, do not warrant us in treating the Mexican individuals as a species distinct from that of California.


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