Volvulus, but very improperly. Berosus has the front tibie slender and linear, and deeply grooved externally for the accommodation of the tarsi when retracted, a character of itself amply sufficient, even if we leave out of consideration the other numerous points of distinction, to distinguish it from its heterogeneous associates. As thus limited, Berosus remains an extensive genus, with fully fifty described and a large number of undescribed species, distributed over most of the earth’s surface, but apparently more attached to the warmer regions. The species form a most difficult study, owing to their great resemblance and the absence of conspicuous differences in form and colour and sculpture. North America has sixteen species; and these have been well characterized by Leconte, and more recently by Horn (Trans. Am. Phil. Soc. xiii. p. 118 et seqg.). The latter author has used some valuable characters for forming sections in the genus, one of which, however, should be abandoned.

The Central-American species here enumerated form three groups, viz.:—


2. Elytra unarmed at apex; basal ventral segment without carina, except between the coxae. B. puncticollis, B. infuscatus, B. falcatus, B. flavicornis, B. mexicanus, and B. metalliceps.

3. Elytra unarmed at apex; basal ventral segment with a well-marked carina extending along nearly all the length of the middle. B. gracilipes and B. maerens.

1. Berosus salvini. (Tab. III. fig. 1.)

Major, supra testaceus, in elytris fusco-maculatus, capite aeneo; thorace dense fortiterque punctato, medio metallico-bivittato, utrinque fusco maculato; elytris aequaliter sat profunde striatis, interstitiis erebro fortiterque punctatis, apicibus spinosis anguloque suturali evidenter acuminato; corpore subus nigro, prothoracis lateribus late testaceis; antennarum basi, palpis pedibusque testaceis, femoris basi nigris, tibiis intermediis et posterioribus versus apicem cum tarsis nigriscentibus.

Long. 3½, lat. 1½-1¾ lin.

Hab. Mexico, Oaxaca (Höge), Guanajuato (Dugès, coll. Sallé), Puebla, Toluca (Sallé); Guatemala, Guatemala city 5000 feet (Champion and Salvin), San Joaquin (Champion).

This is a remarkable species, the size being larger than usual, and the upper surface nearly dull, with coarse close sculpture. The spots on the elytra are very large, and sometimes suffused so as to make the surface appear nearly entirely dark. The tooth at the apex of each wing-case is slender and moderately long, and the suture, though not spinose, is distinctly prolonged and acute. The male has the basal joints of the front tarsi much dilated; the fifth ventral segment has in the middle a rather broad emargination, so that it forms a prominent tooth on each side; and the middle part of the base of the emargination is a little produced backwards, and in front of this the surface is strongly elevated and compressed so as to form a rather short but prominent carina; the fourth segment bears in the middle behind a small tooth. The female is