GYROPHÆNA.


About sixty species are included in this genus; they are distributed over Europe, Ceylon, Austro-Malasia, Japan, and North and South America, so that it is probable the genus will prove to be nearly cosmopolitan. All the species whose habits are known are in the perfect state exclusively dwellers in or among fungi; and at present, if we may judge from the number of Central and South American species, it would appear that the forests of tropical America are the headquarters of the genus. The species are best distinguished by the sexual armature of the terminal segments; and the study of the large series here described has disclosed the remarkable fact that in many species this armature is as peculiar, or nearly so, in the female as it is in the male sex: in certain cases where the male armature is very similar in the males of two species, it is very dissimilar in the females; in the European species the females are without external armature; in one of the species here described the male characters are subject to diminution or disappearance; so that we have in fact among these minute creatures all the complex peculiarities of sexual armature that exist among the large Lamellicorn Coleoptera, but in the latter on the anterior parts of the body.

1. *Gyrophaena pumila*.


*Hab. Guatemala*, San Juan in Vera Paz (Champion).—*South America*, Amazon valley 1.

Mr. Champion has sent us but a single specimen of this most minute creature. It differs from the Amazonian individuals in that the antennæ are clear pale yellow, but in no other respect so far as I can see.

2. *Gyrophaena oblita*.

Minuta, brevis, latiuscula, subdepressa, sublavigata, nitida, fusco-nigra, antennis pedibusque dilute flavis; prothorace fortiter transverso, fere impunctato; elytris quam hic paulo longioribus, paribus subtillisque punctulatis.

Long. 13 millim.

*Hab. Guatemala*, Zapote (Champion).

Antennæ clear yellow, rather short and stout; third and fourth joints very small, fifth to tenth transverse; terminal joint short. Head short and broad, narrowed behind the eyes, impunctate. Thorax twice as broad as long, narrower than the elytra, almost impunctate, without trace of serially or quadrately disposed punctures. Elytra with fine and distant punctuation. Hind body impunctate.