PALAMINUS.


This genus consists of about fifty described species and is specially characteristic of the New World, its species being very numerous in South America, while there are nine or ten known from the United States of North America. It is also sparingly represented in the Indo-Malayan and Austro-Malayan regions and in Northern Australia.

It is very difficult to treat it satisfactorily, owing to the obscure external specific characters, and the fact that the species are scarcely ever represented by sufficient series of examples to allow the varied sexual characters to be properly studied. This is not, I believe, due so much to the actual rarity of these insects—for Mr. Champion informs me that they are frequently to be met with by beating foliage—as to the great difficulty of preserving specimens, owing to their fragile nature and the rapidity with which they decay if not mounted soon after capture. It is no doubt for this reason that we possess only a very insufficient series of examples, so that I have been obliged to leave a few obscure species uncharacterized. The only character I can at present detect to divide the genus at all satisfactorily is based on the structure of the antennae. The species of the first group are as a rule of more slender build than those of the second.

§ 1. Antennæ excessively slender; terminal joint scarcely perceptibly broader than that preceding it and much narrowed towards the base, which is therefore very slender.

1. Palaminus lacertinus. (Tab. XVI. fig. 20.)

Angustus, elongatus, niger; antennis, palpis pedibusque pallide flavis, palporum articulo ultimo magno; prothorace elongato, basin versus angustato, elytris multo angustiore, irregulariter punctato; elytris fortiter punctatis, ad apicem fere laxeigatis.

Long. 8 millim.

Hab. Guatemala, Cerro Zunil 4000 to 5000 feet, El Tumbador 2500 feet (Champion).

Antennæ slender, long. Head small, very coarsely punctured, bearing long pallid hairs, the eyes rather small. Thorax small, just as broad as the head, but not much more than half the width of the elytra, as long as broad, not curved at the sides, greatly narrowed behind, very coarsely and irregularly punctured, and bearing long pallid hairs. Elytra about twice as long as the thorax, very coarsely punctured and distinctly pubescent, the punctures more distant towards the hind margin, and quite absent at the margin itself. Hind body coarsely, squamosely sculptured. One example from each locality.

2. Palaminus parviceps.

Angustus, elongatus, niger; antennis (?), palpis pedibusque pallide flavis, palporum articulo ultimo majore;