Group PIESTINA.

This group received the rank of subfamily from Erichson, and was considered to be differentiated from the “Oxytelinae” by the front coxae not being exserted; this character is, however, variable, so that really at present a satisfactory line of demarcation between the two groups cannot be pointed out.

The species of this group are subcortical in their habits, and chiefly found beneath sappy bark.

HYPOTELUS.


This genus comprises four species from Tropical America and one from Texas. These insects are very similar to one another; but I find the males possess some slight distinctive characters that greatly facilitate the determination of the species.

1. _Hypotelus hostilis._


_Hab._ MEXICO, Terpa (Pilate 1 2); GUATEMALA, Cerro Zunil, Zapote, Capetillo (Champion).

In the male of this species and in that of _H. pusillus_ the basal joint of the antennæ is armed with an acute tooth, and the alternate joints, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, are armed with longer exserted setæ: the tooth I presume is what Erichson alluded to in his description of the genus by saying “medio introrsum subdentato”; there is, however, no tooth at all in the other sex. Mr. Champion obtained a good series of _H. hostilis_ at Zapote; the three examples from Cerro Zunil are all females, and have the elytra slightly longer, and may prove distinct when the male is known; the single example from Capetillo is also a female, and as it differs in some slight details may be a third species. I have not seen any Mexican example, and it is possible that the Guatemalan insect may not really be Fauvel’s _H. hostilis_.

2. _Hypotelus lucidus._

_Nigriceps, nitidus; antennarum basi pedibusque testaceis; elytris pallide flavis, sutura fuscenscente, subtiliter punctatis._

_Long. 24 millim._

_Hab._ PANAMA, Bugaba (Champion).

This insect is almost exactly similar to _H. hostilis_, but is a little smaller, and the antennæ in the male have only a very minute tubercle on the basal joint, and the setæ on the alternate joints shorter. Six examples were obtained, two being males. The Amazonian _H. micans_ again is very similar, but has the thorax rather more coarsely punctate, and the antennæ entirely yellow.