MICRUTALIS, gen. nov.

Genus Acutalis et Trachytalis affinis, sed ab illo tegminibus areis apicalibus quatuor, formâ breviori, et statuâ sepiissime minima, ab hoc, ut supra memoratum est, distinguendus.

Closely allied to Acutalis, with which it has usually been included, but distinguished by the fact that the tegmina have only four apical areas; as a rule there is no discoidal area, but occasionally the central basal area has a vein running across it a little before the base, thus forming two areas; the venation of the wings is variable, three or two apical areas being present, but no discoidal; the tegmina are either entirely hyaline, or to a greater or less extent coriaceous and opaque.

This genus presents great difficulties, and perhaps ought not to be separated from Acutalis in the present state of our knowledge, although I feel sure that eventually it will have to be even further subdivided. There are apparently two well-marked forms—one in which the tegmina are entirely hyaline, or with a small dark spot at the extreme base, and the other in which they are to a greater or less extent coriaceous and opaque; in the latter case it is hard to distinguish the veins, even when the tegmina are mounted in Canada balsam and examined under a compound microscope, as they are of almost the same consistency as the opaque portion through which they run. In one case (M. binaria) I have found this difference to be, in part at least, sexual, and it will probably be found to hold in other species also. In a considerable number of the species with hyaline elytra the veins are very fine and scarcely traceable, while in others they are thick and conspicuous and approach the venation of Acutalis. There are only four apical areas to the tegmina, and, as a rule, no discoidal; in some specimens, however, of these species with more stoutly veined tegmina, there is a small area cut off from the central basal area, as above stated, which makes the latter appear divided, with part forming a discoidal area; the venation, however, in these cases is very different from that of Trachytalis, which is abundantly distinct by other characters apart from venation.

The species are extremely variable in several cases, and it is impossible without the actual comparison of the type-specimens (which I have not been able to see in all cases) to tell what is the correct synonymy; some of them have been described under Horiola, to which they cannot belong, if the figures of the tegmina given by Fairmaire (Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. sér. 2, iv. t. 7), even with Stål's alterations (Hem. Fabr. p. 21, note), are right; the difficulty is increased by the presence of specimens under MS. names in Signoret's collection.

With the exception of M. balteata, the species are very small, and one or two are among the most minute of the Membracoideae.

1. Micrulalis balteata.


Hab. GUATEMALA, Cerro Zunil (Champion); PANAMA, Volcan de Chiriqui (Champion).
—COLOMBIA (coll. Signoret 3, in Mus. Vind. Cas.).

The specimens in our collection do not quite agree with the ordinary form, being