and Serville themselves, are by no means always visible. At best, the character given for *Sphenorhina* is a weak one, generically, and besides this, on examining a large number of species, I have found that it is often more or less feebly marked, and that intermediate examples occur, which make it practically impossible to draw a hard-and-fast line between Amyot and Serville’s genera: the facies of the various species, as well as their size, differs very considerably, some being elongate and parallel, and others short and ovate; the shape, however, is by no means associated with the carination and compression of the front, for the species most similar in appearance differ in this point*. Under all the circumstances, then, it seems best to include all our species, at all events provisionally, under *Tomaspis*.

**Tomaspis.**


This genus, as here constituted, includes a large number of species, both from the Old and the New World. Amyot and Serville restricted *Tomaspis* to insects from South and Central America; but, for the reasons already given, I prefer to follow Stål in again extending it. The genus differs from *Cercopis* in having the ocelli usually very close together, and always nearer to one another than to the eyes, whereas in *Cercopis* they are equidistant from one another and from the eyes, or are closer to the eyes than to each other.

The species described or enumerated below may be divided into four sections as follows; but they are merely provisional, and it must be allowed that certain of the species are intermediate:—

1. Larger species, 17–19 millim. in length, ovate or broad-oblong in shape; with the tegmina, as a rule, coloured in transverse bands, but sometimes spotted or unicolorous.

2. Intermediate-sized species, 14–16 millim. in length, subparallel in shape; with the tegmina coloured in transverse bands.

3. Smaller species, 5–12½ millim. in length, ovate or oblong-ovate, rarely oblong in shape; with the tegmina, as a rule, coloured in transverse bands, rarely spotted or unicolorous.

4. Moderate-sized species, 7–12 or 13 millim. in length, elongate-oblong or parallel in shape; with the tegmina coloured in more or less distinct longitudinal bands or markings, very rarely spotted †.

In the *Cercopinae* the apical portion of the tegmina is nearly always more or less

* A glance at Tab. XI., where the metopidium of each species is separately figured, will at once make these points clear.

† The only exception I know is the variety of *T. imperans* described below, in which the red marginal longitudinal band is broken into spots.