Group 4.

The insects belonging to this group have a very distinct facies, as a rule, although T. imperans is, perhaps, a somewhat intermediate species. There is no tangible character on which to separate them generically. They appear to be very variable in colour.

32. Tomaspis imperans, sp. n. (Tab. XI. figg. 25, 25 a ; 26, var. sexnotata.)

Oblonga, sat angusta, sat nitida, nigra, capitae, pronoto (disco fusco excepto), scutello, basi limboque marginali tegmini ante apicem abrupte terminato, sanguineis; metopidio postico; pronoto longitudine duplo latiori, nitide, remote et tenui profunde punctato; tegminibus dense subtiliter punctatis, apicibus sat fortiter rugoso-reticulatis; corpore subitus piceo, metasternio rufo, abdomen pedibusque nigris.

Oblong, parallel, black, with the head and metopidium (which is produced) scarlet; pronotum twice as broad as long, shining, somewhat diffusely and distinctly punctured, scarlet, with the disk dark to the sides; scutellum large, finely rugose, unicolorous scarlet; tegmina black, with the base and a broad marginal band ceasing abruptly a little before the apex scarlet, the colour being very distinctly marked, the punctuation very close and fine, the apex plainly rugose-reticulate; underside dark, the metasternum red; legs black.

Long. 10 millim.; lat. max. 4½ millim.

Hab. Panama, Volcan de Chiriqui 2500 to 4000 feet (Champion).

Var. sexnotata.

Colore nigro, differt basi pronoti sat late, lateribus angustae, apice tantum scutelli, et tribus maculis tegmini utrinque sanguineis.

Black, with the base of the pronotum broadly and the sides narrowly scarlet; the apex only of the scutellum is of the same colour, and the scarlet marginal band of the tegmina is replaced by three spots on each side—one at the base, one before the middle, and the third behind the middle.

Long. 10 millim.; lat. max. 4½ millim.

Hab. Panama, Bugaba, Volcan de Chiriqui 2500 to 4000 feet (Champion).

33. Tomaspis assimilis. (Tab. XI. figg. 27, 27 a ; 28, var.)


Hab. Mexico (Sallé 1), Omitemte, Xucumanatlan, and Sierra de las Aguas Escondidas, all in Guerrero, 7000 to 8000 feet (H. H. Smith), Orizaba (Belimek, in Mus. Vind. Cæs.), Oaxaca (Mus. Holm. 2; Mus. Brit.); Guatemala, San Gerónimo (Champion).

Stål enumerates four varieties of this species. In the type form the head and the front of the pronotum are red, and the hinder part of the latter, except the posterior margin (which is dark), is light testaceous; the tegmina are dark, with a light testaceous longitudinal subcostal stripe, which is curved and enlarged in front and behind and almost encloses a dark oval space divided by the suture; this band, however, varies and is often quite straight and not thickened behind; the colour of the head and pronotum is also variable. A single specimen from San Gerónimo in