

EPEIRA, Walckenaer.

The large genus *Epeira* of Walckenaer has, since his days, been considerably curtailed; it still, however, as now recognized by most araneologists, includes a rather heterogeneous mass of species. All seem to agree fairly well in regard to several leading generic characters, though in some the exact form of the cephalothorax diverges a good deal from the ordinary generic type. The portion of structure presenting the widest range of difference is the abdomen; while, therefore, making no attempt here to subdivide this genus, I have roughly arranged the new species received from Central America according to the leading characters of the abdominal form; this is, however, intended chiefly to narrow as much as possible the field within which collectors may have to search for the identification of species, for the mere form of the abdomen, certainly in this group, will scarcely now, I imagine, take rank as a good generic character.

***Epeira tetragnathoides*, sp. n.**

Adult female, length $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ lines; *adult male*, slightly over 2 lines.

Cephalothorax of ordinary form; colour brownish-yellow tinged with orange, bisected longitudinally by a tapering, somewhat irregular, black stripe, and with a narrow black margin.

Eyes on black spots in the usual position; the anterior pair of the central group (which forms a square whose hinder side is considerably the shortest) are larger than the posterior pair, which are almost contiguous to each other; the anterior pair are close to the lower margin of the clypeus.

The *falces* are strong, prominent in front, and like the cephalothorax in colour.

The *legs* are long, slender, 1, 4, 2, 3, similar in colour to the cephalothorax, and closely mottled and minutely spotted, chiefly in front, with black; the first two pairs also marked with a longitudinal black line in front of the femora, tibiae, and metatarsi. The legs are furnished with hairs, slender bristles, and fine spines.

The *palpi* are like the legs in colour and markings.

The *maxillae* and *labium* are also brownish-yellow blended with a deeper hue. The former are very slightly divergent, and a little longer than those of the typical *Epeira* in form.

The *sternum* is black-brown, marked along the middle with a broad brownish-yellow band.

The *abdomen* is elongate-oval, projecting considerably and in a somewhat pointed form over the thorax and also behind a little over the spinners. The upperside is blackish-brown, marked on each side with a slender longitudinal wavy pale line, containing a series of small black spots; along the centre also are two parallel slender pale lines: all these lines converge towards both the fore and hinder extremities of the abdomen. The sides are closely mottled with yellowish, and each with a longitudinal blackish stripe which at the lower margin is white. The underside is black, bordered on each side with a broadish yellow-white band and with a short broad band along the middle just in front of the genital process, which is simple, short, and not prominent.

A variety of this spider has the legs unspotted and unmarked, and the abdomen closely spotted all over with yellowish-white points or minute spots; the upperside has a longitudinal tapering white stripe along its whole length, bordered on each side with pale brownish-yellow, and along the outer side of this colour is a row, converging towards the spinners, of distinct black spots. The underside has a broad longitudinal black band, which encircles the spinners on their anterior side, and has a broadish white band along its fore half, next to the genital process.

The *male* resembles the female first above described.

The *palpi* are short; the cubital joint is somewhat angular in front, with two very long, strong, prominent,