

spicuous, slightly curved, strong, tapering, sharp-pointed red-brown spine; the upperside is white, cretaceous-looking, and marked only with some dull leaden irregular reticulations and lines; the sides and underside are leaden-black, the former has a few perpendicular tapering white stripes dropping downwards from the upper part, and on the underside are two longitudinal parallel rows on the hinder half of three white spots each, the anterior spot largest, the posterior ones placed on either side of the spinners, which are short, rather small, and black. The genital process is moderately strong, almost perpendicularly prominent, and ending with a very short epigyne directed backwards.

An immature male had the upperside of the abdomen whitish-yellow, with a longitudinal central slightly tapering dark greyish band edged with black, and ending with a large black blotch on each side at the upper part of the end of the abdomen, the black continued over the hinder part and spotted with white; from the black edge of the central band, on each side, issue several strongish black tapering stripes over the sides, where are also a few white spots; the anterior spots on the underside are oblong and very much the largest.

Hab. PANAMA, Bugaba (*Champion*).

This spider is allied to *E. tauricornis*.

***Epeira tauricornis*, sp. n.**

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

This spider is one of a group which marks the transition to the Gasteracanthidæ, and in the prevailing rage for the multiplication of genera it might well form the type of a genus separate from *Epeira*; but although no doubt the subdivision of many of the old genera became, and is, necessary for the practical dealing with crowded generic groups, it seems, in some instances at least, to have been carried to excess and to thwart its own end. Upheld, therefore, in the present case with the opinion of so able an Arachnologist as Count Eugène Keyserling, I retain the spider before us, at all events for the present, in the genus *Epeira*.

Cephalothorax broad, the caput somewhat quadrate before and gibbous above on each side near the thoracic region. It appears to vary in colour from yellow-brown to a deep bistre-brown, marked with lighter or darker patches, and dotted with short grey hairs or pubescence.

The *eyes* are in the usual three groups; those formed by the two lateral pairs are widely distant from the central group owing to the width of the caput, at the extreme outer fore corners of which they are placed, forming a straight transverse line with those of the fore central pair, which are almost contiguous to the fore margin of the clypeus. The four central eyes form a square, the hinder pair being much larger than the anterior.

The *falces* are rather long, strong, vertical, prominent in front, and similar in colour to the cephalothorax.

The *legs* are short, not very strong; they are of a brownish-yellow colour annulated with darker brown; the femora of the first and second pairs being of a dull orange or red-brown, their anterior halves, as well as the genual joints, being, in a well-coloured example, nearly black. They are clothed with short greyish hairs, but there appears to be an almost total absence of spines. The relative length of the legs is apparently 1, 4, 2, 3, or 1, 2, 4, 3, though the difference between 1, 2, 4, is very slight. The tibiæ have the slightly bent form characteristic of the Gasteracanthidæ.

The *maxillæ*, *labium*, and *sternum* are black-brown, the apex of the labium being of a rounded form, and the maxillæ have a pale margin at their extremities.

The *abdomen* is large, of a somewhat quadrate-cylindric form (like that of the well-known European *Cyrtophora opuntia*). It has on the upperside eleven variously sized circular and flattened conical prominences or boss-like humps—three on each side in a longitudinal line, and five forming a diamond-shaped group of four, with one in the centre on the hinder part. The central one of this group appears to be very variable in its size and length: in one example of each sex it is much the largest, and in others the whole posterior portion of the abdomen is drawn out into a tail bearing the prominences at the end of the group and projected in a caudiform manner. The anterior prominence on each side (situated at the fore corners of the abdomen) is much the largest, and terminates in, or is drawn out at its summit into, a strongish, slightly bent, sharp thorn-like corneous spine; all the other humps end with a rudimentary spine of a similar kind.