

EPEIRA, Walckenaer.

Epeira merens, sp. n.

Adult female, length very nearly 6 lines.

Cephalothorax much longer than broad; caput somewhat produced and squarely truncated in front; lateral marginal impressions moderate; normal indentations strong; profile rather flattened. It is brownish-yellow in colour, covered with greyish hairs, and with a broad, longitudinal, central, dark brown band, somewhat angulated on the edges and broadest near the occiput; on the thorax are some indistinct converging brown stripes.

Eyes in normal position, three groups on prominences at the fore margin of the caput and occupying its whole width. The central group of four eyes forming a trapezoid broader than long, with its anterior side much longer than its posterior side: the anterior eyes of this group are largest of the eight, seated on each side of an obtusely-pointed projection of the central prominence, and separated from each other by less than a diameter's interval; the interval between the posterior pair is equal to a diameter. The eyes of each lateral pair are divided by an interval equal to the diameter of the fore-lateral eye. Height of clypeus equal to a diameter of one of the fore-central eyes.

Legs moderately long, strong, 1, 2, 4, 3, furnished with hairs and numerous strong spines. Colour yellowish, femora orange; annulated (excepting the femora of the first pair at their extremity) distinctly and tolerably thickly with deep brown.

Falces powerful, vertical, subconical.

Maxillæ short, broad, dark yellow-brown; margin broadly whitish.

Labium broader than high, rather pointed at the apex, which is white.

Sternum subtriangular, with prominences opposite the coxal joints of the legs. Colour deep brown, with a strong dumb-bell-shaped yellow spot (or two ordinary spots coalescing) on each side of the margin on the fore half, followed backwards by a single spot of the same colour.

Abdomen large, subtriangular, furnished with a few hairs; on each side near the fore margin is a strong conical eminence, each followed by two much smaller tubercular prominences in a longitudinal line at the middle of the outer margin; at the upper hinder extremity is a group of five different-sized subconical eminences, three in a transverse line, with another in the middle in advance of the line, the fifth behind it forming a four-cornered or diamond-shaped area; between the hinder eminences and the spinners the abdomen is strongly and transversely rugulose. The whole of the upperside and sides are of a deep bistre-brown colour mixed with yellowish points; a slender but very distinct transverse yellow line, slightly curved in the middle and broken near each end, runs from apex to apex of the two anterior conical prominences; the anterior edge of this line is furnished with a narrow fringe of short, rather shining, white hairs. The two eminences on each side are yellow, and between them on the middle of the upperside are two broken yellow-margined black lines or spots, one on each side converging towards the posterior group of prominences, and representing the normal Epeirid abdominal frondose pattern. Spinners short, compact, black-brown, with a short, yellow, curved bar on each side towards the front. Underside brown, with two median yellow spots in a transverse line just behind the genital process, followed by two others much smaller and indistinct, but also in a transverse line. Genital process strong, bent, and of characteristically distinct form.

Hab. MEXICO, Atoyac in Vera Cruz (*H. H. Smith*).

METAGONIA, Simon.

Metagonia caudata.

Metagonia caudata, Cambr. antea, p. 150, t. 21. figg. 8, 8 a-d.

The female only of this spider was described (*l. c. supra*). The *adult male* measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines in length. In general colours and appearance this sex closely resembles the female. The caput, however, has a broad yellow-brownish longitudinal central band, including the eyes and narrowing to the thoracic indentation;