

LINYPHIA, Latreille.

Linyphia læta, sp. n.

Adult female, length to spinners $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 lines; length to extremity of caudal prolongation 3 to $3\frac{2}{3}$ lines.

Cephalothorax of normal form; colour reddish-orange.

Eyes rather closely grouped together and on small black spots, small, subequal, those of the posterior row almost in a straight transverse line; the interval between the hind-central pair is equal to a diameter, and each is distinctly, though not greatly, further from the hind-lateral on its side; the four central eyes form a trapezoid whose anterior is shorter than its posterior side, the other three sides being equal; the fore-centrals are nearly contiguous to each other, and those of each lateral pair are contiguous to each other and placed obliquely on a small tubercle. The height of the clypeus is half that of the facial space.

Legs slender, tolerably long, 1, 4, 2, 3, or 1, 2, 4, 3, furnished with a few slender spines on the tibiae and metatarsi, mostly on the tibiae. Colour yellow, tinged with greenish-brown.

Falces rather long, tolerably strong, vertical, slightly divergent, similar to the cephalothorax in colour, with red-brown extremities.

Maxillæ similar also to the cephalothorax in colour.

Labium and *sternum* reddish-yellow-brown.

Abdomen large, its hinder extremity drawn out into a short, obtuse, caudiform shape. The sides and upper-side are white, the latter with two longitudinal, uneven or irregularly dentated purplish-brown or blackish stripes, enclosing an elongate-oval space to the extremity of the caudal prominence; this oval space is bisected longitudinally by a brownish irregular, tapering central streak. The underside and the space from the caudal prolongation to the spinners are black or black-brown; the sides are marked by some very distinct black stripes and bars extending upwards from the underside, the foremost stripe bending sharply and running along the upper lateral margin to the fore extremity. There is some little variation in these markings, which can only be correctly understood from the figures given. The genital aperture is of a nearly circular or short transverse-oval form. In some examples the upperside is of a more or less uniform deep purplish-brown hue.

Adult male, length $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

The colours and markings of the abdomen of the female are more or less traceable in the male, but they are not so clear and sharply defined, and the abdomen is also almost cylindrical, though preserving the general form of that of the female. The colours of the cephalothorax, legs, and other parts are similar. In the male there is, a little way in front of the spinners, a transverse, curved, strong, and well-marked narrow opening or slit, spanning almost the whole width of the abdomen. I could not trace this in the female.

The *falces* are long, strong, the outer edge, when looked at from in front, sinuous, so that the extremities appear to be a little divergent. They are armed with teeth at the extremities, both on the anterior and posterior margin of the groove in which the fang lies when at rest. There is also a single tooth at the extremity near the inner side in front of each falx. Along the outer edge of the falces are some minute tubercles, each surmounted by a bristle. The fang is strong, somewhat constricted near the base and enlarging again near the middle.

Palpi moderately long, similar in colour to the legs; the cubital joint is short, but produced in front, and has at its upper termination a black, short, sharply-bent, corneous, spiny process, whose extremity is sharp-pointed and directed inwards. The radial joint is short, directed inwards, and with a very slight prominent point at the middle of the upper extremity; digital joint of moderate size and elongate-oval form; palpal organs well developed and rather complex, with various strong corneous processes and spines, of which enlarged drawings alone can give any clear idea.

Hab. MEXICO, Amula and Omilteme in Guerrero (*H. H. Smith*); GUATEMALA (*Sarg*).

Evidently an abundant species.