

downwards, one at each posterior angle, and sometimes a minute cusp also at the base of each of these, behind and below; with also a median lateral marginal stout cusp curved backwards.

Colour: abdomen with the dorsal surface bright yellow, the bases of the spines bright orange, the apices black, the posterior spines sometimes half black; lateral areas spotted with broken longitudinal lines of yellow spots; a more conspicuous wedge-shaped bar of transverse carmine blotches running from between the posterior spines to the spinning-tube, which is purple.

Vulval scapus consisting basally of a broad, convex, shining boss, covering a cavity, which is divided centrally by a narrow carina, the apex of the latter being dilated and abruptly recurved. The genital orifices lie at the bottom of the cavities on each side.

♂. Abdomen narrower in front, much broader behind; with two lateral cusp-like projections, usually having a black point beneath the epidermis, marking the original situation of the long spines noticeable in the immature male. These tend to disappear as the spider becomes adult, while the apical spurs become even more obsolete.

Carapace and legs bright orange-red, the latter entirely devoid of spines; abdomen paler orange-yellow, with a pair of conspicuous white spots situated transversely on the posterior third.

The tibial spur of the palpus is characteristic, differing from that of *M. brevipes* in not being bifid, see Plate.

Hab. NORTH AMERICA¹⁻⁶.—MEXICO, Orizaba, Atoyac, Teapa (*H. H. Smith*), Yucatan⁷; GUATEMALA⁷, Guatemala city, Coban, Tamahu, Cunen, Chiacam, Santa Ana (*Sarg*).

Mr. Sarg remarks that these spiders construct their webs amongst the leaves of a very thorny Bromelia, where they are safe from almost any attack. The colour is variable, but made up of gamboge, lemon-yellow, and carmine.

So far as one can judge, it seems probable that the above synonymy is correct. An example of *Acrosoma spinea*, determined by Emerton, is contained in the British Museum; while McCook's conclusion as to the identity of this species with *M. sagittata* (Walck.) must also be accepted. The specimens before me from North America are very much smaller than those from Mexico or Guatemala, and have the posterior spines shorter, stouter, and less divergent; but I can at present find no character in either sex on which one would feel justified in separating the two forms.

22. *Micrathena gladiola*. (Tab. LI. figg. 22, 22 a-c, ♀.)

Plectana gladiola, Walck. Ins. Apt. ii. p. 182 (♀)¹.

Acrosoma gladiolum, Keyserl. Spinn. Amer., Epeiridae, p. 8, t. 1. figg. 5, 5 a (♀)².

Acrosoma aculeatum, C. L. Koch, Die Arachn. iii. p. 58, fig. 211 (♀)³ (nec Fabr.).

Total length, ♀, 12 millim.

Carapace uniformly convex, broadly rounded in front, twice as long as broad, scarcely raised behind the thoracic fovea, which is distinctly visible. Central quadrangle of eyes wider behind, posterior centrals larger, one diameter apart; anterior centrals half a diameter from the posterior centrals and from each other. Lateral eyes situated on a low tubercle, almost in contact, distant from the posterior centrals by three and a half diameters of the latter. Clypeus equal to one diameter of an anterior central eye. Fang-groove with four teeth above, three below. Sternum exceedingly convex in the middle, forming an oval tubercle. Legs 4, 1, 2, 3, clothed with fine bristles only; coxae iv. almost in contact; femora i.-iv. finely granulose with minute setigerous granules in front and beneath. Abdomen with a pair of anterior spines, adjacent, parallel, slightly divergent at the apex; a short, stout, coniform, median lateral, marginal cusp; a single, longer, stout, widely divergent, slightly upturned spine at each posterior dorsal angle; and a short, stout, conical, cusp-like spine at the base of these behind and beneath.

Hab. GUATEMALA², Coban (*Sarg*); PANAMA, Bugaba (*Champion*).—SOUTH AMERICA^{1 3}.

BIOL. CENTR.-AMER., Arachn. Aran., Vol. II., September 1904.

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