NOTOMICRUS.

Fam. DYTISCIDÆ.

This is a family of moderate extent, comprising at present about 1200 species arranged in about eighty genera. The species are, without exception, thoroughly aquatic in their habits, and, except when on the wing, are rarely found out of their peculiar element. Hence special means of collecting are required for the Dytiscidae, and it is probable that the species of the family are comparatively less completely known than their very closely allied terrestrial neighbours the Carabidae. The arrangement here adopted is that suggested by the writer in the Transactions of the Royal Dublin Society (new series), vol. ii. (1882).

Series DYTISCI FRAGMENTATI.

NOTOMICRUS.


These excessively minute insects form a small genus, of which at present only four species have been described, two from South America and two from Australia.

1. Notomicrus gracilipes.

Ovalis, angustulus, subdepressus, pernitetidus, elytris cerebro subtiliter punctatis, ad basin lævigatus; testaceus, vertice posteroque fuscis.

Long. ½ lin.

Hab. Guatemala, Paraíso, 300 feet (Champion).

The posterior portion of the head is dark, but the colour in front is more dilute and rufescent; the prothorax is clear yellow; the elytra are of a more obscure or livid pale yellow, and are narrowly infuscate along the suture; the surface also appears dark along the joint between the thorax and wing-cases: these latter have a very fine but distinct punctuation; the punctures are not dense, and are quite wanting on the basal portion, and at the extreme apex they are obsolete. The breast is infuscate. The upper surface, except for the punctuation of the wing-cases, is very smooth and shining; but the under surface is duller, although without punctuation. The posterior tarsi are extremely slender and very elongate, considerably longer than the tibiae.

The male has the three basal joints of the anterior tarsi distinctly incrassate.

The species is distinct from the Amazonian N. traili by its smaller size, by the less dense and fine punctuation on the wing-cases, and rather shorter antennae. It varies somewhat as to the extension and distinctness of the infuscate portions of the surface.

2. Notomicrus politus.

Ovalis, angustulus, subdepressus, pernitetidus, lævigatus; tarsis posterioribus tenuissimis, quam tibias longioribus.

Long. ½ lin.

Hab. Guatemala, Paraíso, 300 feet, and Paso Antonio, 400 feet (Champion).