

LACCOPHILUS.

Laccophilus, Leach, Zool. Miscell. iii. p. 69 (1817) ; Sharp, Trans. Roy. Dubl. Soc. n. s. ii. p. 841.

This is an extensive genus, widely distributed in the warmer and temperate regions of the two hemispheres. The Central-American species are numerous; and I have arranged them in conformity with the groups tabled in my memoir on the Dytiscidæ. Thus the first eleven species belong to group 1; the next three species, *L. oscillator*, *L. lævipennis*, and *L. duplex*, to group 2; while *L. optatus* goes into group 5. *Laccophilus championi* and *L. suavis* are peculiar, inasmuch as they possess a coxal file and an elongate prosternal process, a combination not before found in the genus; as, however, the coxal file is rudimentary, consisting of only a few coarse and indistinct rugæ, I think it is of comparatively little importance in the case of these insects, which, from their other characters, may be placed in group 5.

1. *Laccophilus mistecus*.

Ovalis, latus, sat convexus, parum nitidus, testaceus, elytris crebre fusco-irroratis, ad marginem lateralem et ad apicem pallidis; pectore nigro, abdomine piceo.

Long. $2\frac{5}{8}$, lat. $1\frac{3}{4}$ lin.

Hab. MEXICO, Parada (*Boucard*, coll. *Sallé*).

In the male the last ventral plate is much truncate at the extremity, and the middle of the hind margin forms a small but distinctly prominent lobe. In the female the upper surface is a little duller than it is in the male, owing to its being finely alutaceous; the apical ventral segment in this sex is nearly simple, and the coxal file is extremely fine.

The species is allied to *L. mexicanus*, but is broader, and the fuscous irrorations on the wing-cases are not so dense, the male has the last ventral segment more truncate, and the female has the upper surface distinctly alutaceous.

2. *Laccophilus mexicanus*.

Laccophilus mexicanus, Aubé, Spec. Gén. vi. p. 420.

Laccophilus atristernalis, Crotch, Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. iv. p. 418; Sharp, Trans. Roy. Dubl. Soc. n. s. ii. p. 292.

Hab. CALIFORNIA.—MEXICO, Oaxaca and Jalapa (*Höge*), Guanajuato (*Dugès*, coll. *Sallé*), Cordova (*Sallé*).

This appears to be the most abundant species of the Mexican Dytiscidæ. It varies considerably in size and width, and a little in colour, in certain individuals; the ventral segments are nearly yellow; and occasionally the pale spot at the apex of the wing-cases, caused by the absence there of the fuscous irrorations, is very inconspicuous. There can, I think, be no doubt now that Aubé's description (*loc. cit.*) refers to this insect; and I have therefore adopted his name for it.

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