

This is a smaller and narrower insect than the Brazilian *L. scoriaceus*, and it is therefore only the largest examples of *L. molossus* that could be mistaken for that species, and these may be readily distinguished by the mandibular structure; the molar tooth of the right mandible being in such examples of *L. molossus* of remarkably large size, subquadrate in form, and very prominent, and separated from the lower angular tooth by an extremely large interval; while on the left mandible there are three angular teeth beyond the molar mass instead of two as in *L. scoriaceus*. In *L. molossus* the front of the vertex is scarcely at all produced in the middle, the antennæ are moderately long and slender, and there is not more sculpture on the ventral segments than in *L. scoriaceus*.

We have received a large series of *L. molossus*, and, as a rule, it may be recognized by a glance at the mandibles. Small examples do not, however, exhibit the specific characters in any thing like so conspicuous a manner; in such specimens the mandibles are much shorter, and on the left the molar mass is very much reduced in length in the longitudinal direction; the molar tooth of the right mandible is also greatly reduced in size, and separated from the lower or basal angular tooth only by a small angular interval. These variations are apparently in part regional; thus while nearly all of the twenty-five Mexican examples belong to the larger or typical form, there is not one of this form amongst the twenty specimens from Nicaragua and the provinces further to the south, and even when the individuals from the south attain the size of the large Mexican form, they still retain the mandibular structure of the smaller Mexican form. This would suggest that there are really two closely allied species mixed by me under this name; but the mandibular structure in the smaller examples is not sufficiently stable for me to discriminate two forms amongst them with certainty, while in Mexico the small form seems quite certainly to be connected by gradations with the larger form. I have not traced *L. molossus* beyond our region, though the smaller and more slender examples greatly resemble an undescribed Colombian species, *L. angustulus**, which, however, has apparently always two approximate punctures on the vertex, thus resembling superficially the allies of *L. mexicanus*, under which name, indeed, I have received an example from M. Fauvel.

6. *Leptochirus edax*.

Nigerrimus, depressus; abdomine segmentis ventralibus ad basin parum sculpturatis; mandibulis sat elongatis, sinistra dentibus duobus tenacibus et proprius ad basin tantum tuberculis duobus munita, absque dente

* *Leptochirus angustulus*, sp. n.

Depressus, nigerrimus, abdomine subtus haud ruguloso; mandibula sinistra dentibus duobus tenacibus, denteque molari elongato, margine interno tridentato, dextra dentibus duobus tenacibus, denteque molari sat magno; vertice in medio anterieus punctis duobus approximatis.

Long. 17 millim.

Hab. Colombia, Venezuela (coll. Sharp).