

the Lampyridæ but *Alychnus xanthorrhaphus*, which, however, has shortened elytra in the female and is non-luminous, or apparently so. The yellow spots at the apex of the abdomen of this insect are no doubt luminiferous, though they can scarcely emit a vivid light. The habits of these black and either little- or non-luminous species require investigation. One would have anticipated that the more obscurely-coloured species were of very retired habits, and would, at least in one sex, have been more luminous than some others. The eyes of the males are scarcely, if at all, larger than those of the females.

PHOTINUS.

Photinus, Castelnau, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. ii. p. 141 (1833).

This genus as it stands in Lacordaire (Genera des Col. iv. p. 321), and in the sense in which it is here adopted, includes no less than ten genera proposed by Motschulsky and two by Leconte, and is the most extensive among the Lampyridæ. In the Munich Catalogue 116 species are recorded and referred to it. Some restriction, however, is necessary; and I have retained Leconte's genus *Pyrectomena*, which is there united with it. It appears to be exclusively an American genus, ranging from Canada to Buenos Ayres, and probably further south. Species are indeed referred to it from China and the Pacific Islands; but their systematic location needs confirmation. The number of species inhabiting Central America is doubtless large. We here record between thirty and forty species. The *Photini* include species of the smallest and also of large size, and may generally be known by their oblong, rather depressed form, their simple antennæ, and abdomen without lobes to the dorsal segments. The females have the apical and often the two preceding ventral plates notched.

1. *Photinus congruus*. (Tab. IV. fig. 12, ♂.)

Photinus congruus, Chevrolat, Col. Mex. Cent. i. no. 8.

Hab. MEXICO, Cordova, Oaxaca, Puebla, Tuxtla (*Sallé*).

One of the largest species, 17–21 millims. in length. Thorax with the disk dark, the margins pale bone-colour. Elytra fuscous, with the suture, a central vitta along the discoidal nerve, and the fold pale.

There is a variety in M. Sallé's collection from Oaxaca paler, the thorax with the disk brick-red, with a large pitchy-black spot; the vittæ, especially the discoidal one, wider; the female with the thorax narrowed from the base as in *P. meteoralis*.

The specimen figured is from Puebla.

2. *Photinus meteoralis*. (Tab. IV. fig. 14.)

Nigro-fuscus, latus, opacus, thorace sordide albido, disco et limbo toto nigro, angulis posticis acutis; abdominis segmentibus quatuor primis apicibus albis, quinto et sexto diaphanis totis albis. Long. 19–21 millim. ♂ ♀.

Hab. GUATEMALA, San Gerónimo, Sinanja valley (*Champion*).