

The underside (with the exception of the prothorax, the margins of the sternal plates, the legs, and two luminous segments) is pitchy. The tarsi and greater part of the tibiæ are also pitchy. The elytral costæ are but little pronounced.

The smaller specimen is the smallest *Cratomorphus* that I have seen, and has large eyes like those of a male; the apical segment, however, is divided by a small notch like that of females of other species, and is the seventh plate; so that I cannot doubt the sex. Excepting in the points specified, the description is that of the specimen figured, in which the head is retracted within the thoracic cavity, and the eyes appear to be of normal size.

### ASPIDOSOMA.

*Aspidosoma*, Gemminger and Harold, Cat. Col. p. 1645.

*Aspisoma*, Castelnau, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. 1833, p. 145.

*Nyctophanes*, Motsch. Etud. Ent. i. p. 34 (1852).

This is one of the best-defined genera among the Lampyridæ. The upper surface is shield-shaped, depressed, and expanded; the integuments are rather firm, so that they are not so often shrunk as in other genera.

They do not attain the size of the *Cratomorphi*, but they are apparently strongly luminous in both sexes, the males being most developed in this respect; some of the species are quite small, and then resemble small *Photini*. Others of moderate size remind one a good deal of Cassidæ of the genera *Physonota* or *Aspidomorpha*.

The distribution of *Aspidosoma* is confined to Tropical America. A species has been recorded from Buenos Ayres; and it is probable that the genus extends rather further south than the tropic of Capricorn. It is also found in the West-Indian Islands.

#### 1. *Aspidosoma laterale*.

*Lampyris lateralis*, Fabr. Syst. El. ii. p. 106<sup>1</sup>; Voet, Col. i. t. 48. f. 3.

*Hab.* NICARAGUA, Chontales (*Belt*); COSTA RICA (*Van Patten*).—SOUTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>.

The determination of the species of this genus is a matter of great difficulty, even with fresh, bright specimens; unfortunately the few specimens of this in the Central-American collections are not sufficiently fresh for me to feel very confident about them.

They are 15–17 millims. in length, acuminate in front and behind, of an obscure dirty horn-colour. None of the markings are distinct; those which in these specimens accord with others in my collection referred to *L. lateralis*, Fabr., are a subhumeral patch on the expanded margin, and a narrow spot a little beyond the middle of the margin, leaving an oblique pale space between them, not exceeding in length one quarter of the elytral length. Two slightly raised nervures are very little paler than the ground-colour. The discoidal patch of the thorax is divided by two distinct red lines.