

EPITRAGUS.

Epitragus, Latreille, Hist. Nat. Crust. et Ins. x. p. 322 (1804); Lec. Class. Col. N. A. part i. p. 215 (1862); Horn, Rev. Ten. N. A. p. 263 (1870); Lec. & Horn, Class. Col. N. A. p. 363 (1883).

This New-World genus, as here understood, ranges from the Southern United States to the Argentine Republic, occurring also in the Sandwich Islands and in the West Indies. Most of the Peruvian and all the Chilian species at present referred to *Epitragus* will probably have to be placed in other genera. All the species here referred to it have a prominent prosternal process received by the mesosternum, which is furnished with a strong V-shaped elevation, concave within. The genus is readily divided into two sections—one with the middle lobe of the epistoma emarginate in front, *E. fuscus*, Latr., from Cayenne, and the type of the genus, belongs to this group, which ranges from Mexico to Buenos Ayres; the other, with the epistoma produced and rounded in front (the anterior margin of the head appearing trilobed), of wider and more northern distribution. Numerous large metallic brassy or bronze species of the second group are peculiar to the Southern States, Mexico, and Guatemala. The females (not the males, as stated by Leconte) of some of the species found in the Southern States and Mexico have the disc of the thorax flattened and with a prominent elevation on each side, often excavated within and enclosing a scutiform or triangular excavation. Some allied genera (*Nyctopetus* and *Geoborus*) are peculiar to Chili and Peru, and *Chilometopon*, Horn, to California. But few of the South-American species have been described as yet, though numerous in collections. *Epitragus* is well represented in Central America by upwards of thirty species. The different species are found upon leaves and herbage, and, unlike the allied groups, seem to like the sun. One species has been bred from cocoons found in the earth. These insects when freshly emerged are, in addition to the usual pubescence, densely covered with a sort of mealy efflorescence, which soon wears off.

Sect. 1. *Epistoma emarginate in front.*1. ***Epitragus aurulentus*.** (Tab. I. fig. 19.)

Epitragus aurulentus, Kirsch, Berl. Zeit. 1866, p. 189¹.

Epitragus denticulatus, Mäklin in litt.

Hab. MEXICO?; COSTA RICA (*coll. F. Bates, Van Patten*), Irazu (*Rogers*); PANAMA, Volcan de Chiriqui, La Caldera, David, Bugaba, Tolé (*Champion*).—COLOMBIA, Bogotá¹; JAMAICA; BRAZIL?

This is a common species in the State of Panama. It may be known from the others of the section, in which the epistoma is emarginate in front, by the variegated golden pubescence of the thorax; the thorax is wider behind, the hind angles more acute and the punctuation closer and finer, and the rows of elytral punctures deeper and stronger