

EPICAUTA.

Epicauta, Redtenbacher, Fauna Austriaca, ed. 1, p. 631 (1849); Horn, Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. xiii. p. 95 (1873); Leconte & Horn, Class. Col. N. Am. p. 421 (1883).

The highlands of Mexico and the adjacent regions to the northward are particularly rich in species of this genus, and the headquarters of *Epicauta* in the New World would appear to be in Mexico, its members rapidly diminishing in number southwards. Forty-nine species* (as against thirty-five from the United States) are here enumerated from Mexico or Central America: of this number seven only extend to Guatemala or Nicaragua, and one (*E. carmelita*) to Colombia. Panama appears to have but three species, two of which are South American. The Mexican *Epicautæ* have been monographed by Dugès [An. Mus. Michoacano, ii. pp. 60–91 (1889)], and many species have also been described by Haag, these authors having in numerous cases described the same species under different names; thirty-two are enumerated by Dugès. As in *Macrobasis*, the male-characters in the antennæ, anterior tibiæ, &c. are of the utmost importance for discriminating between the numerous closely-allied forms, more particularly as regards the species with cinereous or black pubescence, the colour of the pubescence itself being sometimes variable (*E. cinerea*, &c.). The punctuation of the head and thorax also varies greatly in some of the species (*e. g.* in *E. curvicornis*), and it cannot always be relied upon as a specific character. In one interesting new species from Coahuila (*E. singularis*) the suture of the elytra is longitudinally raised at about one-third from the apex in the female. The antennæ, the intermediate joints of which are sometimes distorted (*E. curvicornis*) or dilated (*E. basimacula*, &c.) in the male, show every gradation in structure from strongly setaceous to filiform; but in the following "Key" I have not thought it safe to group the species upon this character (as is done by Dr. Horn), as some of them would be as well placed in one section as the other. All the species here referred to *Epicauta* have a silky-pubescent concave space on the inner face of the anterior femora and tibiæ in both sexes. *E. subatra*, *E. apicalis*, and *E. subrubra*, Dugès, and *E. dohrni*, *E. haroldi*, and *E. modesta* (Haag) are unknown to me, and may be incorrectly placed in the "Key." These insects are chiefly found in the dry-season, upon flowers, sometimes in the greatest profusion.

Third antennal joint distinctly longer than the fourth.

Prothorax with the sides more or less rounded or obliquely converging in front.

Antennæ elongate, setaceous, the intermediate joints strongly distorted in male Species 1.

Antennæ more or less elongate, tapering outwardly or filiform.

Anterior tibiæ unicalcarate in male.

Intermediate joints of the antennæ flattened and dilated in male Species 2–4.

* Three or four of these must be regarded as doubtful.