

nearly as broad as long, and bears a few minute scattered punctures; the elytra are dull, minutely punctate, and have three well-marked fine costæ; the legs are stout; the anterior and middle tarsi are considerably dilated in the male; the outer spur of the hind tibiæ is very broad, the inner one acute and slender; the under surface is clothed with very coarse, long, yellowish hairs; the sixth ventral segment in the male is very broadly triangularly excavate along the middle from the deeply-emarginate apex nearly to the base, the cavity being filled with membrane. The short, stout antennæ, the intermediate joints of which are much thickened, the stout legs, &c., distinguish this insect from *P. nobilis*.

Lytta
CANTHARIS. *Geoff. (m L 1758)*

Cantharis, Linnæus, Acta Upsal. 1736, p. 19; Horn, Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. xiii. p. 103; Leconte & Horn, Class. Col. N. Am. p. 421; Dugès, An. Mus. Michoacano, ii. p. 96 (1889).

Lytta, Fabricius, Syst. Ent. p. 260.

Cantharis, as adopted here, following Leconte and Horn's classification of the North-American Vesicants, includes only those species with the antennæ thicker externally (at least in the female, the intermediate joints often thickened in the male), the anterior femora and tibiæ without a silky-pubescent concave space on their inner face, the labrum feebly emarginate, and the two portions of each tarsal claw equal in length and separate.

Twenty-five species are here recorded from within our limits, as against thirty-five from the United States; four only occur south of Mexico. Dr. Horn's Group III. is not represented in Central America, and five only of our species (as against eighteen) belong to his Group II. There is a good deal of confusion in the synonymy of several Mexican species, Dugès and Haag having each described certain of them under different names*.

The form of the sixth ventral segment, and in some cases that of the last dorsal segment also, in the male, is a very important character for discriminating between the various species of this genus; but it is not noticed by Haag. In *C. quadrimaculata*, Chev., and *C. sanguineoguttata*, Haag, the last dorsal segment (or pygidium) has an elongate process in the male; *C. sanguineoguttata* also possesses other extraordinary male characters. *C. quadrimaculata*, *C. biguttata*, *C. proteus*, and *C. variabilis* vary very much in colour; of the two latter, varietal forms still "in copula" have been received from M. Sallé or Herr Höge. *C. dichroa*, Lec., is recorded by Dr. Horn (Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. xiii. p. 112) as from Mexico, but no specimen of it has been received by us.

Outer spur of the hind tibiæ much stouter than the inner one.

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| Antennæ (♂) with joints 4-6 distorted | Species 1. |
| Antennæ (♂) with joint 4 dilated, 5 distorted | Species 2-4. |

* *Cantharis angulicollis*, Dugès, from Lower California = *C. vulnerata*, Lec.