

## APHRASTUS.

*Aphrastus*, Schönherr, Gen. Curc. vii. 1, p. 39 (1843); Lacordaire, Gen. Col. vi. p. 209; Horn, Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. xv. p. 98.

The two known species of this genus are from North America, and two others are now added from Mexico, these latter being less convex than *A. tæniatus* and *A. unicolor*, and having the elytra parallel-sided anteriorly and the humeri more prominent. The chief characters of *Aphrastus* are as follows:—

Rostrum broad, transversely-subquadrate, sulcate, the scrobes short, superior, the nasal plate limited behind by a v-shaped ridge; eyes very widely separated, not strictly lateral; elytra 10-striate, the outer striae coalescent from the basal third; posterior tibiae narrowly laminate at the apex, the articular surface terminal, not cavernous; tarsal claws connate; body oblong or elongate, densely squamose, winged\*.

1. ***Aphrastus angularis***, sp. n. (Tab. XIV. figg. 3, 3 a, ♂.)

Elongate, moderately convex, rather narrow, black or piceous; densely clothed with whitish, cinereous, or brownish-cinereous scales, the legs also set with short decumbent hairs. Head and rostrum slightly hollowed and finely canaliculate down the middle, the head somewhat exserted, the rostrum broader than long, the scrobes slightly converging posteriorly; antennæ stout, short, about reaching the centre of the prothorax, the scape extending to the middle of the eyes, joint 2 of the funiculus shorter than 1, the club comparatively small; eyes large, moderately prominent. Prothorax cylindrical, as long as broad, flattened along the middle, feebly bisinuate at the base, obsoletely canaliculate and finely punctate. Scutellum oval. Elytra elongate, subparallel in their basal half, sinuate at the base, the humeri obliquely truncated laterally and angularly produced in front; conspicuously punctate-striate, the interstices feebly convex. Legs stout, short.

Length  $5\frac{1}{2}$ – $7\frac{1}{2}$ , breadth  $1\frac{4}{5}$ – $2\frac{2}{5}$  millim. (♂ ♀.)

*Hab.* MEXICO (*Mus. Brit.*; coll. *Solari*, ex *Jekel*), Iguala in Guerrero (*Höge*), Mescala in Guerrero (*H. H. Smith*).

Fifteen specimens, the two in the Solari collection labelled with misleading MS. specific names of Jekel † (one of them marked “envoyé à Boheman”); the short series from Mescala in fresh condition. This species may be recognized by its exserted head, rather large eyes, short antennæ, cylindrical prothorax, angularly, anteriorly projecting humeri (which are continued forwards beyond the hind angles of the prothorax), and uniform whitish or cinereous vestiture. The short intermixed setæ are almost wanting on the upper surface.

2. ***Aphrastus submarginatus***, sp. n. (Tab. XIV. figg. 4, 4 a, ♂.)

Moderately elongate, somewhat flattened above, narrow, piceous or ferruginous; variegated above with a dense clothing of cinereous and brown scales, the latter usually condensed into a median vitta on the prothorax and small indeterminate confluent spots on the elytra, the markings sometimes almost obsolete, the scales on the under surface cinereous or whitish; the surface also set with minute scattered

\* Horn in his Table of the Cyphina, group Aphrasti (*t. c.* p. 87), states that the body is apterous; but this must be due to an error of observation.

† *coarcticollis* and *impressicollis*.