

CACOPSALIS, gen. nov.

Rostrum in utroque sexu parum dissimile, breve; caput sat elongatum, posterius haud constrictum, collo lato, capite latiore. Abdomen segmentis basalibus parum elongatis.

The extremely interesting insect which forms this genus is similar in appearance to the North-American species of *Eupsalis*, but differs in the structure of the head and the insertion of the antennæ, so that the two genera, notwithstanding the great superficial resemblance, cannot be considered as closely allied. We appear, indeed, in this case, to have a remarkably primitive form of Brenthid, resembling in details of colour, sculpture, and general appearance the more normal genus *Eupsalis*.

In *Cacopsalis* the structure of the rostrum is not very dissimilar in the two sexes, and is, in fact, intermediate between that of the male and the female of *Eupsalis*, where there is a strong sexual disparity. The insertion of the antennæ is also little different in the two sexes, the place being a little behind the middle. The mandibles are similar in the two sexes, approximate, rather small, very strongly toothed, the sharp apical points directed upwards. In the form of the head there is a marked distinction between the sexes, it being more elongate in the female, while in the male it is not only somewhat shorter, but is also a little constricted behind. The apical three joints of the antennæ are longer than the others, but do not form a definite club. The first and second segments of the abdomen are not distinctly divided, and are unusually short, each being only half as long as broad. The tarsi have the lobes of the third joint remarkably largely developed. The femora are dentate, and the other characters are much the same as in *Eupsalis*.

In the present very unsatisfactory condition of classification of the Brenthidæ, it is not easy to decide on a position for this genus. Lacordaire placed *Eupsalis* in his group Arrhenodides, a position that would be quite unsuitable for *Cacopsalis*. Power removed *Eupsalis* from this position (Ann. Soc. Ent. France, 1878, p. 477) and placed it in a group with *Amorphocephalus*, but *Cacopsalis* would be equally misplaced there. The genus, in fact, exhibits a peculiarity not found in either the Arrhenodina or the Amorphocephalina, inasmuch as the fovea on the underside of the head is not connected with the transverse constriction separating the head from the neck, but is placed at some distance in front thereof. This character appears to be of considerable importance in the classification of the Brenthidæ, and would bring *Cacopsalis* into the neighbourhood of the Nemocephalina, and some of the 'Brenthides vrais' of Lacordaire. There is, however, an important difference arising from the similarity of the sexes of *Cacopsalis*. In the Nemocephalina there is a great dissimilarity between the sexes in the structure of the rostrum, as a result of which, in the female, the fovea is placed at the base of the head in connection with the transverse constriction, while in the male it is much anterior thereto. In *Cacopsalis*, as already stated, there is but little difference between the sexes, and in both the fovea is placed in front of, and separated from, the transverse constriction.