

BRENTHUS.

Brentus, Fabricius, Mant. Ins. i. p. 95 (1787).

Brenthus, Schönherr, Gen. Curc. i. p. 342; Lacordaire, Gen. Col. vii. p. 442.

This genus includes twenty-five species; it is one of the most characteristic genera of the Coleoptera of the Neotropical region.

In the collection of Mexican insects formed by M. Sallé there exists a specimen obtained from Sturm's collection and labelled by him "*Brenthus sub-bisulcatus*, mihi, Mexico." This is a species of the Madagascar genus *Piazocnemis*, or rather, perhaps, of a genus closely allied to *Piazocnemis*. As I feel sure it was labelled as Mexican by some error, I have not included the species in our descriptions, though it appears to be undescribed; it has the scape of the antennæ unusually long.

§ 1. *Prothorax sulcate along the middle, either on the basal half only or for the greater part of the length.*

1. *Brenthus deplanatus*.

Brentus caudatus, Oliv. Ent. v. no. 84, p. 440, t. 2. fig. 10 (1807)¹ (nec Herbst).

Brenthus caudatus, Gyll. in Schönh. Gen. Curc. i. p. 343².

Brenthus deplanatus, Gyll. in Schönh. Gen. Curc. v. p. 528³.

Hab. MEXICO³, Orizaba (*Sallé*), Cerro de Plumas (*Höge*); GUATEMALA, Cerro Zunil (*Champion*), Panzos (*Conradt*); NICARAGUA, Chontales (*Belt, Janson*); PANAMA, Bugaba, Volcan de Chiriqui (*Champion*).—SOUTH AMERICA, Surinam^{1 2 3}, Brazil³.

This varies greatly in size, but not very much in other respects. The elytral caudæ are not sexual in *B. deplanatus*; they vary in length according to the size of the individual, and in large females are nearly or quite as long as in the males of the same size. We have received a series of about seventy examples.

2. *Brenthus armiger*.

Brentus armiger, Herbst, Käfer, vii. p. 196, t. 108. fig. 5¹.

Brentus canaliculatus, Fabr. Syst. Eleuth. ii. p. 551².

Brenthus canaliculatus, Schönh. Gen. Curc. i. p. 346³.

Hab. MEXICO, Ventanas, Presidio (*Forrer*), Orizaba, Toxpam, Playa Vicente (*Sallé*), Cordova, Bobo, Cerro de Plumas (*Höge*); BRITISH HONDURAS, Belize, R. Sarstoon (*Blancaneaux*); GUATEMALA, San Juan in Vera Paz, Mirandilla, Cerro Zunil (*Champion*), Coban (*Conradt, Champion*); NICARAGUA, Chontales (*Belt, Janson*); PANAMA, Bugaba, Volcan de Chiriqui (*Champion*).—SOUTH AMERICA³ to Brazil³.

The yellow marks on the elytra are variable in this species, and may be completely absent. The elytral caudæ in the male vary greatly in their length; they are never present in the female. In the latter sex the yellow marks are not nearly so variable