

Group SPHENOPHORINA.

CACTOPHAGUS.

Cactophagus, Leconte, Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. xv. p. 331 (1876); Chevrolat, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. 1882, p. 579 (part.); Casey, Ann. N. York Acad. Sci. vi. p. 684 (1892).

The type of this genus is *Sphenophorus validus*, Lec. (= *spinolæ*, Gyll., var.), and it will also include numerous Tropical American forms, such as *S. sierrakowskyi*, Gyll., *S. tibialis*, Waterh., *S. pulcherrimus*, Chevr., &c. Its principal characters are the stout cylindrical rostrum; the deeply channelled peduncle of the submentum* (the sides being thus raised anteriorly into two vertical lamellæ which are rounded at the ends); the narrowly separated anterior, and widely separated intermediate, coxæ; the broad, flattened, antero-intercoxal process of the metasternum, which is bisinuate in front; the unarmed femora; the rounded, unarmed, outer apical angle of the tibiæ; and the very large third tarsal joint, which is spongy-pubescent beneath. Amongst the fourteen species referred to *Cactophagus* by Chevrolat, eight only belong to it as here understood. Most of them have the prothorax or elytra spotted or banded with red, and the anterior or posterior tibiæ are often strongly ciliate or penicillate within, and the fifth ventral segment furnished with a cluster of long erect hairs in the males. The colour is variable in some cases, as in *Rhynchophorus*, *Metamasius*, *Phyllerythrurus*, and a few other genera of the group Sphenophorina. Some of the species of the present genus are recorded as attacking *Cereus* or *Opuntia*.

The Central-American species may be separated thus:—

- a. Anterior tibiæ densely fringed with long or moderately long hairs in ♂, the fifth ventral segment without cluster of erect hairs in this sex.
 - a¹. Seriate punctures on the elytra coarse and foveiform.
 - a². Elytra with two red fasciæ. *fahræi*, Gyll.
 - b². Elytra immaculate *striatoforatus*, Gyll.
 - b¹. Seriate punctures on the elytra finer.
 - c². Prothorax almost smooth.
 - a³. Elytra with two red fasciæ *spinolæ*, Gyll.
 - b³. Elytra immaculate *spinolæ*, Gyll., v. *validi-*
 - d². Prothorax closely punctured; elytra with two transverse curved lines of small scattered red spots on the disc, often obsolete . . . *validirostris*, Gyll.
- b. Posterior tibiæ densely fringed with long, and the other tibiæ with shorter, hairs in ♂, the fifth ventral segment without cluster of long hairs in this sex; prothorax with a broad stripe on each side, and the elytra with two interrupted fasciæ, red, these markings sometimes obsolete *ciliatus*, sp. n.

* The gular peduncle of Leconte is termed the peduncle of the submentum by Lacordaire.