

MECOMETOPUS.

Mecometopus, Thomson, Class. Long. p. 222; Chevr. Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. 1861, p. 387, et 1862, p. 58.

Neoclytus (partim), Lacord. Gen. Col. ix. p. 77.

Clytus, Lap. & Gory, White.

Lacordaire did not admit this genus as distinct from *Neoclytus*. It seems, however, quite as well defined as most of the other genera of the *Clytini* group adopted by him and other authors. To the slender form of the hind legs, especially the femora, and the elongated and subvertical forehead, are added a distinct style of coloration and markings, and a more circumscribed and compact area of distribution. The genus is peculiar to Tropical America, and contains about twenty known species. Only one is at present known from so far north as Mexico; and none have been recorded from beyond the southern limits of Brazil.

1. ***Mecometopus jansonii***. (Tab. V. fig. 14.)

Mecometopus Jansonii, Trans. Ent. Soc. 1870, p. 399.

Hab. NICARAGUA, Chontales (*Belt, Janson*).

One of Belt's examples forms a variety in which the bright yellow spots of the elytra are much more extended than in the type, reducing the width of the black ground-colour. The middle sutural spot is prolonged and angular behind as in front, *i. e.* rhomboidal in shape instead of triangular.

The species, according to the description, seems to be closely allied to the Colombian *Mecometopus amaryllis* (Chevr.), which differs in the more slender antennæ and the red colour of the anterior legs.

2. ***Mecometopus æsopus***.

Clytus (Tillomorpha) æsopus, Chevr. Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. 1860, p. 502, t. 9. f. 12¹.

Neoclytus æsopus, Bates, Trans. Ent. Soc. 1872, p. 187².

Hab. MEXICO, Cordova (*Sallé*¹); NICARAGUA, Chontales (*Belt*²).

A species remarkable for the ridge-like elevations of the base of the elytra (two on each side) and the compressed and dilated hind tibiæ. The head is precisely that of a typical *Mecometopus*; and there are no grounds whatever for referring the species to the genus *Tillomorpha*, as Chevrolat has done. *Mecometopus polygenus* has also strongly dilated and compressed hind tibiæ; but they are shorter, and the dilatation is gradual and progressive from base to apex; in *M. æsopus* it is greatest in the middle, and the outer edge of the tibia forms a flexuous line.

The species is closely allied to the common *Mecometopus olivaceus*, Lap. & Gory, of South Brazil. In colour and markings they are nearly alike; and the Brazilian species even shows traces of the basal ridges of the elytra.