

Fam. CRYPTOCEPHALIDÆ.

This immensely rich group, of which more than 1200 species are known and described, is distributed over the entire world. The neatness of their shape and the variety of their coloration justify fully the favour they have found amongst collectors. As regards Central America, the proportion to other countries may be put down as one to eighteen; of the 1200 species, about eighty are found in Central America.

MONACHUS.

Monachus, Chevrol. Dej. Cat. 3rd ed. p. 449; Suffrian, Monogr. in Linn. Entom. vi. p. 210 (1852).

This genus, characterized by its small size and peculiar shape, and principally distinguished from *Cryptocephalus* by the short and thickened antennæ, contains about 100 species, of which the great bulk inhabit Tropical America. Central America does not contain more than eleven species; and the larger West-Indian Islands have not furnished us with a single *Monachus*.

1. *Monachus guerini*.

Monachus guerinii, Perbosc, Rev. Zool. 1839, p. 264¹; Suffr. Linn. Entom. vi. p. 216².

Hab. MEXICO, Vera Cruz (*Perbosc*¹), Jalapa²; GUATEMALA, San Gerónimo, city of Guatemala (*Champion*).

This species seems to be not uncommon in the neighbourhood of Guatemala, and is contained in most collections; it is easily recognizable by its bright coloration of red and blue and its comparatively large size. I have seen Suffrian's specimen in the Berlin Museum.

2. *Monachus scaphidioides*.

Monachus scaphidioides, Suffr. Linn. Entom. vi. p. 215.

Black below; above black, opaque, with a slight bluish tint; thorax impunctate, opaque; elytra very finely punctate-striate, the striae diminishing posteriorly, the two marginal ones distinct in shape of grooves.

Hab. MEXICO, Yucatan; GUATEMALA, San Juan in Vera Paz (*Champion*).

This species is described by Suffrian as blue; all the specimens I have seen, including the type from M. Deyrolle's collection, are black below. It cannot be confounded with the preceding species, on account of the impunctate and black thorax and the abbreviated red elytral band.

3. *Monachus guatemalensis*. (Tab. III. fig. 1.)

Broadly ovate, metallic dark blue; thorax purplish, distinctly punctured; elytra deeply punctate-striate, dark blue, each elytron with an oblique transverse band below the base, not touching the suture.

Length $1\frac{1}{4}$ line.

Head flat, impunctate, dark blue; antennæ robust, each joint gradually widened and thickened towards the apex, blackish-blue, the first two basal joints stained with fulvous below; thorax very convex, much narrowed anteriorly, sides nearly straight, posterior angles acute, surface with two very shallow depres-