

ARESCUS.

Arescus, Perty, Del. Anim. Art. p. 100 (1832) ; Baly, Cat. Hispidæ, p. 80, t. 2. f. 2.

Chelobasis, Gray, Griffith's Animal Kingdom, Ins. ii. 143, t. 101. figg. 4, 4 a-g. P

The insects belonging to the genus *Arescus* are above the medium size, brilliantly coloured, and are so variable in tint and markings that in a long series of individuals belonging to the same species, it is comparatively rare to find two specimens of precisely the same colour and pattern. From their abundance and variability it is fair to assume that the conditions under which these insects live are greatly in excess of the absolute requirements of the species, and that the additional vital energy thus produced expends itself in the development of innumerable variations from the original type of coloration.

Of the same habits as *Prosopodonta*, *Cheirispa*, and most of the species of *Cephaloleia*, and found in the broad unopened leaves of Musaceæ and Marantaceæ (*Champion*).

1. *Arescus bicolor*. (Tab. II. figg. 10, 11.)

Chelobasis bicolor, Gray, loc. cit. p. 143, t. 67. f. 4¹.

Arescus labiatus (Perty), Baly, Cat. Hispidæ, p. 83².

Oblongo-elongatus, fulvus aut flavus, nitidus ; antennis [basi excepta], scutello, femoribus apice, tibiis tarsisque nigris ; thorace transverso ; lateribus rectis, rarius ante medium ampliatis, ad apicem rotundato-angustatis, disco lævi ; scutello elongato-trigonato, obtuso ; elytris anguste oblongis, parallelis, apice conjunctim rotundatis, regulariter punctato-striatis, utrisque maculis duabus infra basin, transversim dispositis, fascia prope medium, utrinque abbreviata, plaga magna ante apicem, lineaque marginali, postice abbreviata, interdum obsoleta, nigris.

Var. A. Thorace piceo aut nigro tincto, elytrorum fascia integra, plaga subapicali communi.

Var. B. Thorace nigro, elytrorum apice toto nigro.

Var. C. Niger, elytris rufis, fascia nigra communi extrorsum abbreviata, maculis basalibus interdum obsoletis.

Var. D. Subtus niger, thorace rufo-fulvo, femoribus flavo-maculatis ; supra rufo-fulvus ; antennis (articulo secundo excepto), verticis macula, scutello elytrorumque punctis tribus, horum primo supra callum humerale, secundo vix ante medium, tertio inter medium et apicem positus, nigris.

Var. E. Pallide flavus, antennis extrorsum, oculis, scutello, elytrorum puncto humerali, femorum apice, tibiis extus tarsisque nigris.

Var. F. Elytris totis flavis aut fulvis.

Var. G. Thorace flavo et fulvo, nigro variegato.

Long. $4\frac{1}{2}$ –5 lin.

Hab. GUATEMALA, Senahu and Sabo in Vera Paz (*Champion*) ; PANAMA, Bugaba 800 to 1500 feet, Volcan de Chiriqui 2500 to 4000 feet (*Champion*).—SOUTH AMERICA¹ ; COLOMBIA ; GUIANA, Cayenne².

This species is abundant in the forest-region of the State of Panama. Large numbers of specimens, including all the varieties, are often found clustered together in the unopened leaves (*Champion*).

Although most inconstant in pattern, many of the specimens agree with the figure of *Chelobasis bicolor*, Gray, in Griffith's 'Animal Kingdom.' I have therefore restored Gray's name, which I had formerly given as a synonym of *A. labiatus*, Perty. Specimens from Colombia and Cayenne placed (Cat. Hisp.) under the latter species belong here.