

and equal on the thorax and elytra. The scutellum is red or brownish. The elytra are entirely chestnut-red, but a little paler towards their apices. The pubescence is so fine that it is often worn off. The amount of black on the thorax varies: in some examples the greater part is black, the sides only being rather indefinitely white; in others the white extends like a round spot for a third of the width.

4. *Ortalistes pexus*.

O. germano quoad formam et staturam similis et affinis; piceus, minute sed distincte punctatus; pube brevi depressa, quasi deteresa vestitus. Long. 2 millim.

Hab. MEXICO, Atoyac in Vera Cruz, Teapa in Tabasco (*H. H. Smith*); GUATEMALA, Senahu, Tamahu, Sabo, and San Juan in Vera Paz (*Champion*); NICARAGUA, Chontales (*Janson*); PANAMA, San Miguel in the Pearl Islands (*Champion*).

Hardly so broad, especially across the thorax, as *O. germanus*, and perhaps a little more distinctly punctured. The colour is different, being uniform and of a dark pitchy-brown tint. The pubescence is not only more distinct, but seems of a different quality, and gives the impression of being brushed away from the suture on each side, thus reflecting the light as the insect is turned in different directions.

Specimens from Nicaragua and the Pearl Islands are almost black.

5. *Ortalistes immersus*. (Tab. XII. fig. 17.)

Brevis, fere orbicularis, subtilissime punctatus, tenuissime pubescens, niger; capite pedibusque flavis; corpore subtus elytrorumque disco late sanguineis. ♂.

Feminae prothoracis margine antico et laterali anguste flavo, capite nigro-piceo. Long. 1.5 millim.

Hab. MEXICO, Teapa in Tabasco (*H. H. Smith*); PANAMA, Bugaba, David (*Champion*).

It is only when seen under favourable circumstances that this little insect appears pubescent; it is so closely punctured as to be semiopaque. The thorax, the base and margin of the elytra, as widely as one third of their breadth and more widely still at the apex, and the head and body in the female, are black. The very short antennæ and trophi are always yellow, as are the legs. We have received one example of the male, viz. the one from Bugaba, and a female from each of the other localities.

There is a species of *Cryptognatha* very similarly coloured to this insect.

Subfam. SCYMNIDES.

The Scymnides consist almost entirely of the genus *Scymnus*, one of the most generalized types of the Coccinellidæ. The genus itself has been divided by Mulsant, but he did not give his divisions, founded on the amount of development of the coxal fossettes, more than subordinate rank. They have, however, been adopted by recent European writers, with whom the ultimate analysis of minute characters is of higher importance than the synthesis of allied forms.