

ii. *Tarsal claws bidentate.* (*Sphex* and *Isodontia*.)

A. *Petiole as long as or scarcely longer than the hind coxæ; radial cellule extending beyond the third cubital cellule; clypeus in female crenate or with short teeth.*

(*Sphex*, *Cresson*.)

✓ 2. ***Sphex erythroptera*.** (Tab. III. figg. 1, ♀; 1 a ♂.)

Nigra, nigro-pilosa; alis rufo-flavis, apice fere fumatis. ♂ ♀.

Long. 30–34 millim.

Hab. MEXICO, Orizaba (*H. H. Smith*), Temax in North Yucatan (*Gaumer*); BRITISH HONDURAS, Cayo (*Blancaneaux*); GUATEMALA, Las Mercedes 3000 feet, Volcan de Atitlan 2500 to 3500 feet, San Gerónimo (*Champion*); COSTA RICA, Cache (*Rogers*); PANAMA, Volcan de Chiriqui 3000 feet (*Champion*).

Antennæ a little longer than the thorax; the third joint two and a quarter times longer than the second. Head subopaque, densely covered with longish black hair; apex of the clypeus projecting, slightly incurved in the centre; face and clypeus with scattered punctures; eyes almost parallel along the face, slightly converging at the top. Mandibles aciculated, the basal half with large punctures, the central part more or less obscure rufous. Thorax sparsely clothed with hair and thickly covered with dense, black, velvety pile; top of the pronotum rather sharply raised and separated from the mesonotum, the centre slightly depressed; centre of the mesonotum furrowed; scutellum impunctate, a broad shallow depression down the middle; postscutellum with a more or less broad depression in the centre, making it almost bituberculate; metanotum opaque, coarsely alutaceous, a broad furrow in the centre, the furrow broadest at the apex. Petiole shorter than the hind coxæ, shining, sparsely covered with long black hairs. Abdomen scarcely so long as, and narrower than, the thorax; shining, impunctate at the base; the apex sparsely punctured and bearing long hair. Posterior tibiæ and tarsi behind clothed with a fulvous pile; rather strongly pilose. First and second transverse cubital nervures very oblique, the first slightly curved, the second quite straight; the third at the base directed outwardly below the middle, then directed sharply towards the base of the cellule (above, the top of the cellule is less than the space bounded by the second transverse and second recurrent nervures); the second recurrent nervure is received a little before the middle of the cellule; the first recurrent nervure is received in the apical third.

Under the name of *Sphex rufipennis*, Fabr., a species has been recorded from Persia, India, North Africa, and South America. This species does not appear to be separable from *S. erythroptera* by any very tangible character, and I should have been inclined to consider it identical with the Indian one, which is certainly the *S. rufipennis*, Fabr. (= *S. diabolicus*, Smith), if the genital armature of the males were not so markedly