

✓ 7. **Astata mexicana.**

Astata mexicana, Cresson, Proc. Ent. section Ac. Phil. in Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. ix. p. v'.

Hab. MEXICO (*Sumichrast*¹).

✓ 8. **Astata alpestris.** (Tab. V. figg. 4; 4 *a*, head from in front; 4 *b*, antenna.)

Nigra, abdomine rufo; sparse punctata, longe albo-villosa; segmento mediali striolato; alis hyalinis, apice fumatis. ♀.

Long. $8\frac{1}{2}$ millim.

Hab. MEXICO, Omilteme in Guerrero 8000 feet (*H. H. Smith*).

Antennæ stout, densely covered with a close white microscopic pile, the third joint not much longer than the fourth. Head broad, sharply retreating behind the eyes; the face and oral region covered with long pale hair, the occiput and vertex with more scattered and shorter hair; the face and front closely and rather strongly punctured, the vertex more sparsely, the punctures on the latter being much more widely separated, and almost absent behind the ocelli. Eyes very slightly converging on the top; ocelli hardly forming a triangle, the anterior ocellus in a pit, the posterior ocelli separated from each other by a greater distance than they are from the eyes. Clypeus rounded in the middle at the apex. Mandibles piceous at the apex. The sides of the pronotum coarsely rugose; mesonotum very shining, sparsely and finely punctured, the pleura strongly punctured; scutellum with very few punctures. Median segment striolated, the striolæ running into reticulations; the apex with an oblique slope, transversely rugosely punctured; metapleuræ obliquely striolated. The sides of the thorax bear long white hairs. Abdomen black at the extreme base, finely aciculate. Legs stout; the tibiæ (especially the two hinder pairs) strongly and stoutly spinose; the tarsi also strongly spinose, rufous towards the apex. Radial cellule short, the appendicular cellule nearly as long as it, and oblique at the apex; the second cubital cellule very narrow at the top, not half the length of the space bounded by the recurrent nervures, the latter being almost the length of the third cubital cellule above.

[Kohl (Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, xxxiv. p. 447) gives *A. cærulea*, Cresson, as from Mexico, no other locality being given; but Cresson himself (Proc. Ent. section Ac. Phil. in Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. ix. p. iv) gives Nevada as the habitat.]

Fam. NYSSONIDÆ.

I use this term merely for convenience, and not that I consider the group of *Nysson* and its allies to form a family of equal taxonomic value with, say, the Pompilidæ or Mutillidæ.

As the admirable Monograph of Handlirsch (Sitz. der k. Akad. der Wissensch. Wien, 1887 *et seq.*) is indispensable to every student of these insects, I have followed his arrangement of the genera.