

### 1. *Stratiomyia mutabilis*.

*Stratiomyia mutabilis* (Fabr.), Bellardi, Saggio &c. i. p. 30<sup>1</sup> (for the remaining literature, see O. Sacken, Catal. N. A. Dipt. 1878, p. 49).

*Hab.* MEXICO, Cuantla, Meztitlan (*de Saussure*), Cuernavaca (*Truqui*), Mexico city (*Sallé*)<sup>1</sup>; GUATEMALA, San Gerónimo (*Champion*); COSTA RICA, Irazu 6000 to 7000 feet (*Rogers*); PANAMA (*Boucard*).—BRAZIL<sup>1</sup>.

It is difficult to describe, and still more so to recognize from a description, a species so variable as the present. I quote Bellardi only, because his descriptions alone agree with our specimens. The upperside of the abdomen of these examples is black up to the anterior part of the fourth segment, the latter half of that segment, as well as the greater part of the fifth, yellow; the venter is black, but the posterior margins of the segments have a more or less broad yellow border. The variation consists principally in the colour of the scutellum, and in the shape of the yellow band on the fourth segment, which is sometimes of equal breadth, sometimes triangularly expanded; but in all my specimens the first three segments are black, clothed in the male with a silvery, in the female with a golden, tomentum; the extreme lateral end of the posterior margin of the third segment shows a trace of yellow. In all these specimens the wings are *fulvous* along the costa, as far as the origin of the second vein; beyond that the colouring is more brown, as far as the end of the third vein. This agreement of specimens (Bellardi's and mine) coming from the same region, would seem to prove that the geographical distribution of the varieties of this species is subject to rule, and that they do not occur quite promiscuously. More detailed observations on the subject would be interesting.

I have before me a male and five females from Central America.

### 2. *Stratiomyia subalba*.

*Stratiomyia subalba*, Bellardi, Saggio &c. i. p. 31<sup>1</sup>.

(?) *Stratiomys subalba*, Walker, List &c. v. p. 43<sup>2</sup>.

*Hab.* MEXICO, Tampico (*de Saussure*)<sup>1</sup>, Presidio (*Forrer*); GUATEMALA, San Gerónimo (*Champion*); PANAMA, Bugaba, Taboga Island (*Champion*).—BRAZIL, Pará<sup>2</sup>.

I cannot believe that this species is merely a variety of *S. mutabilis*; besides the very considerable difference in the colouring of the body and wings (the costal half of which is uniformly brown), the abdomen is squarer and flatter than in the male of that insect. Schiner, Reise d. Novara, Dipt., p. 61, speaks of varieties of *S. mutabilis* with the costal half of the wings uniformly brown; and Arribáizaga (Catalogue &c. p. 128) regards *S. subalba*, Walk. (List &c. v. p. 43), as a mere variety of *S. mutabilis*. But is Schiner right?, and is *S. subalba*, Arrib., the same as *S. subalba*, Bell.? Meanwhile I cannot believe, until we have proof of the contrary, that the four male specimens before me are a mere variety of *S. mutabilis*.