

3. Legs entirely or in great part yellow *picticauda*, Bigot.
 Legs for the most part black *micrura*, O. Sacken. = 4
 4. Bands of the abdomen broad and nearly straight Sp.
 Bands of the abdomen narrower, bilaterally oblique on their
 posterior margins Spp. (nos. 5 & 6).

1. *Sphærophoria picticauda*. = *micrura*

Sphærophoria picticauda, Bigot, Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. 1884, p. 102¹.

Hab. MEXICO¹, Omilteme 8000 feet, Sierra de las Aguas Escondidas 9500 feet, and Acaguizotla 3500 feet, all in Guerrero, Teapa in Tabasco (*H. H. Smith*).

Bigot's vague description would leave one very much in doubt, save for the peculiarly marked fifth abdominal segment, which he recognizably describes. As the species seems to be very variable, I give here a full description, based upon about twenty-five specimens:—

Male. Face in profile more prominent than in *S. cylindrica*, with a greater concavity on the upper part. Face yellow, with a median black stripe, which is often almost wholly obsolete, leaving only a brownish streak, or a small spot on the tubercle. Frontal triangle with a shield-shaped black spot, sometimes leaving only a narrow orbital yellow margin, at other times small. Antennæ black with the third joint yellow below, sometimes red with the third joint black above. Mesonotum dark green or greenish-black, sometimes distinctly bronze-coloured, but little shining; the yellow lateral stripe truncate at the suture; a small yellow spot on the postalar callosities. Pleuræ shining blue-black, with two or three yellow or yellowish spots. Scutellum yellow, or reddish-yellow, sometimes with a darker cloud across the disc. Abdomen opaque black; first segment, except the lateral yellow spots, shining, somewhat metallic, black; second, fourth, and fifth segments narrowly in front and behind, and the sixth in great part, shining black; second segment with a yellow transverse band, wider at the sides, sometimes dissolved in two triangles; third and fourth segments each with a gently arcuate band; fifth segment with two median streaks or comma-like spots, and two larger lateral ones. Hypopygium small, black. Legs often yellow, with the hind legs chiefly, and all the tarsi, brownish; usually the four anterior legs are in great part brownish, and the hind pair is darker; coxæ chiefly brownish or black. Wings sometimes nearly hyaline; usually very distinctly tinged with brownish.

Female. Front shining black, with the orbits on the lower two-thirds yellow. Legs usually lighter-coloured, light yellow, except the hind tarsi; coxæ yellow.

Length 7–9 millim.

2. *Sphærophoria micrura*. = *Allograpta*

Sphærophoria micrura, Osten Sacken, Western Diptera, in Bull. U.S. Geol. & Geogr. Survey, iii. p. 330¹; Willist. Synopsis N.-Am. Syrphidæ, p. 107².

Hab. UNITED STATES, California^{1 2}.—MEXICO, Omilteme in Guerrero 8000 feet (*H. H. Smith*).

A single male specimen from Omilteme, agreeing well with the descriptions. The black facial stripe reaches quite to the antennæ, and the second and third abdominal bands are gently arcuate. The postalar callosities have no yellow spot; there is no yellow on the pleuræ; and the legs are darker than in *S. picticauda*. Bigot. The two species are suspiciously alike.