

Two specimens, easily recognizable from the description. The pile of the mesonotum can hardly be said to be "sehr kurz"; the peculiar dots on the fourth abdominal segment are only visible in the female example.

### 13. *Volucella obesa*.

*Syrphus obesus*, Fabr. Syst. Ent. p. 763<sup>1</sup>; Ent. Syst. iv. p. 282<sup>2</sup>; Syst. Antl. p. 227<sup>3</sup>.  
*Volucella obesa*, Wiedem. Aussereur. zweifl. Ins. ii. p. 199<sup>4</sup>; Macq. Hist. Nat. Dipt. i. p. 494<sup>5</sup>;  
 Dipt. Exot. ii. 2, p. 21<sup>6</sup>; Schiner, Reise der Novara, Diptera, p. 356<sup>7</sup>; Willist. Synopsis N.-Am. Syrphidæ, p. 143, t. 5. f. 9<sup>8</sup>; Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. xv. p. 272<sup>9</sup>.  
*Ornidia obesa*, St.-Fargeau & Serville, Encycl. Méth. x. p. 786<sup>10</sup>.

*Hab.* UNITED STATES, New Mexico<sup>8</sup>, Florida<sup>8</sup>.—MEXICO<sup>8</sup> (*H. H. Smith*); GUATEMALA (*Champion*); COSTA RICA (*Van Patten*); PANAMA (*Boucard*).—SOUTH AMERICA<sup>5 7 10</sup>, Colombia<sup>6</sup>, Guiana<sup>6</sup>, Surinam<sup>6</sup>, Brazil<sup>4 6 9</sup>, Chili<sup>6</sup>; WEST INDIES<sup>3</sup>, Cuba<sup>6</sup>, San Domingo<sup>8</sup>, Guadaloupe<sup>6</sup>.—BOURBON<sup>6</sup>; ISLE OF FRANCE<sup>6 10</sup>; EAST INDIES<sup>6</sup>.

In the Central-American collections before me there are one hundred and twelve examples of this brilliantly-coloured, cosmopolitan insect, from numerous collectors and localities. The most interesting thing in connection with these specimens is the very great variation in size—the smallest measuring only 9 millim. in length, while the largest are 16 millim.

### 14. *Volucella esuriens*.

*Syrphus esuriens*, Fabr. Syst. Ent. iv. p. 281<sup>1</sup>; Syst. Antl. p. 226<sup>2</sup>.  
*Volucella esuriens*, Wiedem. Aussereur. zweifl. Ins. ii. p. 197<sup>3</sup>; Schiner, Reise der Novara, Diptera, p. 356<sup>4</sup>.  
*Volucella violacea*, Say, Journ. Acad. Phil. vi. p. 166<sup>5</sup>; Complete Writings, ii. p. 360<sup>6</sup>.  
*Volucella mexicana*, Macq. Dipt. Exot. ii. 2, p. 25, t. 5. f. 3<sup>7</sup>; Schiner, Reise der Novara, Diptera, p. 356<sup>8</sup>; Osten Sacken, Western Diptera, in Bull. U.S. Geol. & Geogr. Survey, iii. p. 332<sup>9</sup>.  
*Volucella dispar*, Macq. Dipt. Exot. 1<sup>er</sup> Suppl. p. 123, t. 11. f. 2<sup>10</sup>.  
*Volucella maximiliani*, Jaennicke, Neue exot. Dipt., in Abh. Senck. Ges. vi. p. 395<sup>11</sup>.  
*Volucella metallifera*, Walker, List Dipt. iii. p. 636<sup>12</sup>.  
*Volucella esuriens mexicana*, Willist. Synopsis N.-Am. Syrphidæ, p. 137, t. 6. figg. 5, 5 a<sup>13</sup>.

*Hab.* UNITED STATES, California<sup>9 13</sup>, Arizona<sup>13</sup>, Texas<sup>9</sup>, Florida<sup>13</sup>.—MEXICO<sup>5 6 7 9 11 12</sup>, Omilteme, Xucumanatlan, Amula, Mexico city (*H. H. Smith*), Jaral, Atoyac (*Schumann*); GUATEMALA (*Champion*).—SOUTH AMERICA<sup>4</sup>, Colombia<sup>10</sup>, Venezuela<sup>12</sup>; WEST INDIES<sup>1 2 3</sup>.

Thirty-four specimens. *V. mexicana* is probably inseparable from *V. esuriens*, and I have so given the synonymy; but should there be good ground for distinguishing it, the name *violacea*, Say, ought to be used.