

black spots in front. The females of the first variety agree pretty well with the description given in my 'Synopsis' <sup>3</sup>. Those of the second variety have the abdomen wholly black, save the narrow hind margin of segments 2-4, with three pairs of grey lunules; the second segment narrowly shining on the sides, the third more broadly on the sides and behind, the fourth wholly, except the small spots in front of the lunules. The legs in the first variety, in both male and female, have the hind tibiæ wholly red, thus agreeing with *H. bicolor* (Bigot); those of the second have the tip somewhat darker.

Now, of the four forms which Bigot had, the first (*H. bicolor*) is represented by the first variety; the second (*H. oculiferus*) by that described by me in the 'Synopsis' <sup>3</sup>; the third (*H. flavicaudatus*) by the second variety; and the fourth (*H. nigroscutatus*, the locality for which is not given by Bigot <sup>9</sup>) presents such slight differences that it is scarcely worth mentioning. Of all these, *H. flavicaudatus* alone is, I think, entitled to a name, whether varietal or specific. Macquart's original *H. mexicanus* seems to be the same as Loew's *H. polygrammus* and Bigot's *H. oculiferus*.

The generic characters given by Bigot for *Asemosyrphus* are very inadequate; at the same time, he overlooked the only really important structural variation that the species presents, viz. the remoteness of the ocelli from each other. That Bigot mistook the sex of his specimens is surprising; the hypopygium is not at all concealed.

## MALLOTA.

*Mallota*, Meigen, Syst. Besch. iii. p. 377 (1822).

### *Synopsis of the Central-American species.*

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|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Third joint of the antennæ elongate oval . . . . .             | <i>championi</i> , sp. n. |
| Third joint of the antennæ as broad as long . . . . .             | 2.                        |
| 2. Abdomen shining red, with similarly coloured pile . . . . .    | <i>smithi</i> , sp. n.    |
| Abdomen deep black . . . . .                                      | 3.                        |
| 3. Abdomen clothed with black pile throughout . . . . .           | <i>sackeni</i> , Willist. |
| Terminal abdominal segments with bright orange or yellow pile . . | <i>margarita</i> , sp. n. |

### 1. *Mallota* (?) *championi*, sp. n., ♂.

Eyes pilose; third joint of the antennæ twice as long as wide; abdomen shining bronze, with yellow pile; wings brown in front. Eyes narrowly contiguous. Frontal triangle and face shining black, the former with black, the latter with yellow, pile. Antennæ brownish-red; third joint elongate oval, obtusely pointed. Mesonotum subopaque blackish-brown, clothed with moderately long, abundant, light yellow pile, which, however, does not obscure the ground-colour; a tuft of bright, sulphur-yellow pile on the outer end of the suture and upper part of the pleuræ. Pleuræ black, nearly bare. Scutellum obscure yellowish, with yellow pile. Abdomen shining metallic bronze; second segment, except the sides and hind margin, and a very small spot on the front of the third segment, opaque black; clothed with abundant, erect, light yellow pile. Legs yellow; femora, except the tip, black; hind femora moderately incrassate; hind tibiæ curved and compressed. Wings nearly hyaline; brown along the fore part, the costal cell and the base of the marginal cell more yellow.

Length 11 millim.