

except in one or two cases, they are, if anything, a hindrance rather than a help. At the same time it is doubtful whether any satisfactory descriptions can be given for the determination of species, and the synonymic arrangement below adopted after a careful examination of a very large number of examples cannot be regarded as more than provisional, for there appears to be no particular distinguishing character that can be reliably adopted as a basis to work upon. I have endeavoured to find one in the male characters, but, although there appears to be a slight difference in certain species, yet it is so very slight, as far as I have seen, and so difficult to work out, that it is scarcely worth while to consider it. In certain species the males and females appear to differ considerably in the formation of the pronotal horn, and have hitherto been described as distinct.

In the Vienna Museum collection there are four specimens of what apparently is the larval or pupal state of a species belonging to the *A. pallescens* group; it is shaped like a small *Aconophora* in the perfect state, but has no tegmina, these being replaced by a long corneous piece on each side; the head and eyes are large and the latter are furnished on their inner side with a long thick tapering black seta.

1. *Aconophora mexicana*. (Tab. V. figg. 8, 8 a.)

Aconophora mexicana, Stål, Stett. ent. Zeit. 1864, p. 70¹.

Hab. MEXICO (*Mus. Holm. & coll. Signoret*¹), Vera Cruz (*Sallé*), Atoyac in Vera Cruz (*Schumann*), Dos Arroyos in Guerrero 1000 feet (*H. H. Smith*), Valladolid in Yucatan (*Gaumer*); GUATEMALA; PANAMA, Volcan de Chiriqui (*Champion*).—COLOMBIA (*Mus. Roy. Belg.*).

This is a very distinct species, being clothed with yellowish shining pubescence, with the dorsal line and a broad line on each side of it smooth, which gives the insect a striped appearance. Mr. Butler (*Cist. Ent. ii. p. 347*) says of this species: "I think it very doubtful whether this is more than a variety of the preceding species" (*A. stabilis*); but Walker's type of *A. stabilis* is very different from the true *A. mexicana*, which does not appear to be in the British Museum collection at all, one or two other species, which certainly are closely allied to *A. stabilis*, being made to do duty for it. Through the kindness of Dr. Aurivillius I have been enabled to examine one of Stål's types.

We have received a considerable series of *A. mexicana* from Atoyac. A specimen from Volcan de Chiriqui is figured.

2. *Aconophora caliginosa*. (Tab. V. figg. 9, 9 a.)

Aconophora caliginosa, Walk. List of Homopt. Ins., Suppl. p. 135¹.

Hab. MEXICO, Teapa in Tabasco (*H. H. Smith*); GUATEMALA (*Deby*¹), Chacoj and Lanquin in Vera Paz, Coatepeque (*Champion*); NICARAGUA, Chontales (*Janson*); PANAMA, Bugaba, David, San Feliz (*Champion*).