

This genus is a magnificent Central-American type, and is of great interest on account of its affinities.

It resembles the Periplanetinae, especially the genus *Periplaneta*, in the produced bilobed supra-anal plate and in the very long cerci. In the shape of the last segments of the abdomen, which are not acute at their angles, the short spines to the femora, and the black-violaceous colour of the pronotum and elytra, *Megaloblatta* approaches *Deropeltis*, the colour being quite typical of that genus and foreign to the other American Blattidae. In other respects *Megaloblatta* imitates in a very remarkable manner the larger species of the genus *Blabera*: in its gigantic size, the approximated eyes, the very large and wide elytra having a very broad marginal field, and, what is very striking indeed, in the claws being destitute of an arolium—the latter character appearing here as if for the sole purpose of imitating the Blaberinae!

This mimicry is carried to such an extent that at first sight it is very easy to mistake a *Megaloblatta* for a *Blabera*. The resemblance, indeed, is continued even to the less apparent characters, as the loss of the arolia and the arrangement and scarcity of the spines of the femora. It is only by an examination of the characters of the abdomen (unspined angles of the segments, long anal plate, very long cerci) that the real position of *Megaloblatta* can be ascertained.

### 1. *Megaloblatta rufipes*, Dohrn. (Tab. V. figg. 15–17.)

? *Blabera regina*, Saussure, Miss. Scient. Mex., Orthopt. p. 116. 10 (♂) (1870).

*Megaloblatta rufipes*, H. Dohrn, Stett. ent. Zeit. 1887, p. 409. 2 (♂).

♂. Tota nigra, pronoto et elytris leviter violaceo-nigris. Caput rotundatum, oculis invicem sat propinquis. Pronotum densissime punctulatum, disco nitidulo, minus dense et fortius punctato, lateribus rugulosis, postice carinulatum et in longitudinem striolatum. Mesonotum margine postico membranaceo; appendices membranacei meso- et metanoti graciles, elongati. Elytra immensa, fusco-nigra, subviolascens. Alae fulvo-fuscae, margine anteriore et apicali obscuriore; campo anali pallidiore, nebuloso. Femora anteriora subtus in margine antico medio spinis 2–3, in margine postico spina præapicali armata; femora intermedia et posteriora subtus margine antico dimidia parte basali inermi; intermedia 4:3, posteriora 6:4, spinosa. Abdomen politum, utrinque maculis submarginalibus rufis. Segmentum penultimum angulis late rotundato-productis. Lamina supra-analis retro attenuata, rotundata, anguste incisa. Lamina infra-genitalis parva, rotundata, quam ultimum segmentum haud angustior. Segmentum 5<sup>m</sup> basi rufescens. Cerci laminam supra-analem plus duplo superantes.

Long. 51; elytr. 73, pronot. 15.25, latit. pronot. 22 millim.

*Larva*, ♂ (fig. 17). Nigra, nitidissima, elliptica, deplanata. Thorax confertim punctulatus. Pronotum semi-orbiculare, margine postico leviter arcuato, angulis lateralibus subrectangulis, acutis. Meso- et metanotum postice carinulata, processibus membranaceis nullis. Abdomen nitidum, subtiliter punctatum, segmentis 2<sup>o</sup>–4<sup>o</sup> utrinque macula lateritia; segmenta 5<sup>m</sup>–7<sup>m</sup> coriacea, vix punctata, plicato-corrugata; 4<sup>m</sup> utrinque angulatum; 5<sup>m</sup> magnum, marginibus lateralibus lamellaribus, valde reflexis, angulis leviter hebetatis; 6<sup>m</sup> angulis acutis. Venter basi rufescens, utrinque depressione grandi rotundata. Lamina infra-genitalis apice subincisa. Caput et lamina supra-analis ut in imagine; cerci breviores.

Long. 44; pronot. 11.5, latit. pronot. 18 millim.

*Hab.* GUATEMALA, San Juan in Vera Paz (*Champion*); PANAMA (*coll. Brunner*).—COLOMBIA, Medellin; ? BRAZIL.