

## MERMIRIA, Stål.

*Mermiria*, Stål, Recens. Orthopt. i. p. 102 (1873).

The insects which have been separated from the remainder of the Tryxalinæ under the generic name *Mermiria*, Stål, are among the most conspicuous North-American locusts. They occur chiefly in the arid portions of Northern Mexico and the adjoining regions of the United States. Several species, however, are much more widely distributed, and frequent localities as far distant as the New England States and even the adjoining Canadian territory. Most of them are partial to open country, where they make their homes among bunch grasses, although two or three of them also occur in sparsely timbered districts. They prefer sandy hill-sides and knolls to flat country, and become much more plentiful on grounds that have not been burnt over for several years. Most of the species are variable in colour, but their structural features are more permanent.

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feebly broadening below, straight when viewed obliquely; lateral foveolæ invisible from above, very broad triangular, rather obscure, the apex of the triangle in the middle above; antennæ half as long as the tegmina, depressed, triquetral, at least basally, slender throughout and uniformly tapering. Pronotum rather long, the dorsum nearly plane, the lateral lobes nearly vertical, the median carina distinct but slight, the lateral carinæ forming rounded shoulders, subparallel and not very distant on the prozona, gently divergent on the metazona; prozona distinctly longer than the metazona; lateral lobes a little inflexed above, longer than high, the front and hind margins subparallel in lower half. Prosternum with a transverse quadrangular blunt boss; mesosternal lobes separated by a quadrate space considerably narrower than the lobes themselves, the metasternal lobes by a space half as wide. Tegmina and wings reaching the tip of the abdomen, both slender, the latter unusually so. Hind legs slender, the femora reaching the tip of the abdomen, the tibiæ with about fifteen spines on outer row."

1. *Acantherus piperatus*, Scudder.

*Acantherus piperatus*, Scudd. Proc. Dav. Acad. Nat. Sci. ix. p. 23, t. 3. fig. 3<sup>1</sup>.

"Dark cinereo-fuscous, from blackish markings on a testaceous ground. Head reddish testaceous, almost wholly overlaid with black longitudinal markings, on the summit broken into points, except for a rather broad median stripe; frontal costa as narrow above as the basal joint of the uniformly luteous antennæ, feebly sulcate below. Pronotum testaceous above, reddish testaceous on lateral lobes, heavily sprinkled with black puncta above, wanting on a narrow stripe bordering the lateral carinæ, heavily striped or clouded with blackish on the lateral lobes, especially above, and also punctate, the lateral carinæ faintly divergent in front, the front margin faintly, the hind margin slightly, convex. Tegmina flecked with fuscous, pretty uniformly and rather sparsely and slightly infuscated on basal fourth, the anal area subcinereous, flecked with fuscous; wings pellucid, growing gradually infuscated in distal half, the base faintly tinged with greenish. Hind femora dull testaceous, more or less infuscated, especially above, with three broad clouds, the outer two separated by a pregenicular, broad, dull, luteous annulus; hind tibiæ with a similar but narrower and clearer postgenicular annulus breaking the black proximal half, the distal half orange-red, the spines black, except basally."

Length of body 33, of antennæ 12.5, of tegmina 25, of hind femora 19, of hind tibiæ 17.5 millim.

*Hab.* NORTH AMERICA, La Cueva, Organ Mts. (Townsend<sup>1</sup>).

Two females.