HEMIBLOSSIA.

Hemiblossia, Kraepelin, Jahrb. Hamb. Wiss. Anst. xvi. p. 233 (1899) ; Das Tierr., Palpigradi et Solifugæ, p. 103 (1901) .

Closely allied to Ammotrecha, but with the tarsus of the fourth leg short, straight, dorsally arched and unsegmented. All the legs are shorter and relatively thicker, especially the femur of the fourth. The ocular tubercle is furnished with two rows of subsymmetrically arranged bristles, of which the anterior two are considerably the longest.

Type H. bouvieri, Kraep.

Up to the present time only two species of this genus have been described, namely, H. bouvieri, Kraep., and H. o'neili, Purcell, both of which occur in S. Africa. Neither of these is known to me in nature; but I am unable to find in their diagnosis mention of any differential character which justifies, in my opinion, the establishment of a new genus for the Central-American species described below, strange as may seem the generic identity between the Neotropical and Ethiopian forms. Slight differences perhaps exist in the numbers of hairs upon the ocular tubercle and the nature of the hairy clothing upon the palpi; but without a careful comparison between the types of the known species it would be premature to attach a generic significance to these features.

1. Hemiblossia vittata, sp. n. (Tab. XII. figg. 10, 10 a-d, ♀.)

Colour: head, mandibles, legs, palpi, and abdomen deep blackish-brown, the abdomen with a clear white median dorsal stripe, which extends of even width from the last segment over those of the thorax up to the head; lateral integument of abdomen deep greyish-black almost down to the sternal plates, which are themselves infuscate, the posterior wholly so, the anterior with a patch at the sides and on the posterior angle; genital operculum pale; malleoli with black margin. Head-plate thickly beset with short, pale, blunt-tipped hairs; ocular tubercle with two rows of subsymmetrically disposed shorter hairs behind the longer stouter anterior pair. Palpi short; the width of the head equal to the length of the patella and half the tibia; thickly clothed with short, simply attenuate hairs, and furnished in addition with long sensory setæ; without cylindrical bristles. Mandibles toothed as in Ammotrecha stolli. Legs spined approximately as in the genus Ammotrecha, but the spines relatively stouter; all the legs short; the width of the head-plate equal to the patella and half the tibia of the fourth.

Measurements in mm.—Total length 13; width of head 2; length of palpus 4, of fourth leg 6.

Hab. Guatemala (Sarg).

Although in the general darkness of its coloration this species approaches the two South-African forms, it may be at once distinguished from them by the presence of the conspicuous median dorsal white band.

The following species cannot be placed in any taxonomic arrangement, the description and figure being inadequate:—

Cleobis hirsutus, Banks, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci. (3) i. p. 291, t. 17. fig. 31 (1898) 1.—

Hab. Mexico 1.