

## ÆSALUS.

*Æsalus*, Fabricius, Syst. Eleuth. ii. p. 274; Lacordaire, Genera des Coléopt. iii. p. 42.

Three species of *Æsalus* have been recorded, one European, one Japanese, and one from Mexico.

1. *Æsalus trogoides*.

*Æsalus trogoides*, Albers, Deutsche ent. Zeit. 1883, p. 228<sup>1</sup>.

*Hab.* MEXICO, Oaxaca<sup>1</sup>.

As no mention is made of an ocular canthus, this species appears to be a typical *Æsalus*. It is much larger (6 millim.) than *Æ. neotropicalis*, and also differs in colour and in the form of the prosternum.

2. *Æsalus neotropicalis*. (Tab. I. figg. 3, 3 a.)

Oblongo-ovatus, sordide fuscus, antennis pedibusque rufioribus; supra breviter sat dense erecte setosus, opacus, grosse discrete punctatus; clypeo vix arcuato, oculis cantho angusto setifero dimidio divisus; thorace fere sicut in *Æ. scarabæoide*; elytris interstitiis paullo convexis, setis plerumque in striis sitis; tibiis anticis et intermediis extus denticulatis dentibusque acutis elongatis tribus, 1<sup>o</sup> apicali recte exstanti, alteris duobus medianis; prosterno plano, nec elevato.

Long. 4 millim.

*Hab.* GUATEMALA, near the city, Zapote, Capetillo (*Champion*).

Differs from the type of the genus, and all other members of the subfamily to which it belongs, in the eyes being divided (for half their width) by a canthus. The canthus is linear, convex, and studded with short blunt erect setæ like the rest of the surface. The antennæ are very similar; but the joints 6 and 7 are excessively short and acutely produced on their inner side. The mesosternum, as in the type, forms a subvertical plate on the front face of an intercoxal process of the metasternum, and is broadly excavated to receive the point of the prosternum; the latter is not elevated as in *Æ. scarabæoides*, but planed to the level of the anterior coxæ.

Many examples, obtained by beating the withered leaves and boughs of fallen forest trees.

## Fam. PASSALIDÆ.

The latest monographer of this family, Dr. Kaup, in 1871 (Monogr. der Passaliden, Berlin Ent. Zeitschr. xv.), formulated an elaborate classification, which, as it was founded on abundant material, and of course applied to the *Passalidæ* of the whole world, I would willingly have adopted, as the most convenient course in dealing with a limited fauna; but a careful examination has shown the classification to be so arbitrary and inapplicable that I have been compelled to reject it. How far the inconsistencies may be due to the quinary method which Kaup adopted it is unnecessary to inquire, but the necessity of making up the number five in the species of each genus, the genera of