

CRATOSOMUS.

Cratosomus, Schönherr, Curc. Disp. Meth. p. 278 (1826); Gen. Curc. iv. p. 1; Lacordaire, Gen. Col. vii. p. 145.

Gorgus, Schönherr, Curc. Disp. Meth. p. 279.

A Tropical-American genus, including many species of large size, a few of which are peculiar to the region now under investigation: *C. punctulatus* is a common insect in Mexico, but the others are all rare or local, with the exception of *C. gemmatus*. Some of the South-American forms belonging to Schönherr's second group have a long curved spine on each side of the rostrum in the male, in which sex also the pygidium is more broadly exposed than in the female, whereas in *C. punctulatus* and other members of his first group the pygidium is broadly exposed in both sexes. Fresh examples of certain species, *C. pulverulentus*, &c., are coated with a mealy secretion, as in *Lixus*, *Larinus*, &c.

a. Femora unidentate, the anterior pair sometimes unarmed.

*a*¹. Rostrum short, feebly curved, not dentate at the sides in the ♂; eyes comparatively small, distant; femora sharply annulate; pygidium broadly exposed in both sexes.

*a*². Prothorax and elytra sparsely, conspicuously tuberculate; the pallid vestiture of the prothorax reduced to two patches at the base and a line along the anterior margin *annulipes*, sp. n.

*b*². Prothorax not or feebly, and the elytra distinctly*, tuberculate; the pallid vestiture of the prothorax separating or surrounding the usually more or less confluent black spots on the disc *punctulatus*, Gyll.

*c*². Prothorax not, and the elytra sparsely, tuberculate; the prothorax with a transverse black median fascia, the rest of the vestiture dense and yellowish *lafontii*, Guér.

*b*¹. Rostrum longer and more curved, sometimes feebly dentate at the sides in the ♂; eyes very large, subcontiguous or narrowly separated; femora not annulate; pygidium of the ♂ broadly, and that of the ♀ narrowly, exposed †.

*d*³. Prothorax and elytra finely tuberculate *gemmatus*, Lec.

*e*². Prothorax and elytra with long, stout, conical tubercles, the elytra bidentate at the apex *spicatus*, sp. n.

*f*². Prothorax granulate or punctate ‡.

*a*³. Elytra with a very large conical tubercle on the third interstice and another large tubercle at the shoulder.

*a*⁴. Prothorax granulate; elytra seriato-foveolate *augustus*, sp. n.

*b*⁴. Prothorax punctate; elytra seriate-punctate *pulverulentus*, sp. n.

* The tubercles few in number in the var. *η*.

† The two sexes of *C. gemmatus* and *C. cuneatus* only are available for examination.

‡ In *C. aspersus* there is a short tuberculiform carina on the disc.