

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME NORTHERN DERBIDÆ.

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The small group of Homopterous insects included by Fabricius in his genus *Derbe*, but now separated as a sub-family from the other Fulgoridæ under the name of *Derboides Spinola* or *Derbida*, Stal, have always been objects of interest to students of this order, partly on account of their delicate form and peculiar structure, but their almost universal rarity has doubtless added much to their attractiveness. A series of these frail North American forms, differing in several respects from their tropical allies, were first made known in 1819 by Mr. Kirby, who arranged them under two genera—*Otiocerus* and *Anotia*, describing under the former eight, and under the latter one species; to *Otiocerus* three species from the United States were added by Dr. Fitch in 1851 and 1856, and one by Dr. Stal from Cuba, in 1859; to *Anotia* Dr. Fitch added three species in 1856. Thus, as the genera now stands, *Otiocerus* has twelve North American species, and *Anotia* four, but future study will probably result in placing two or three of these as mere varieties. As has been stated, *Otiocerus* was established by Kirby in a paper read before the Linnæan Society of London, in 1819. This paper appeared in Vol. XIII. of the Transactions, published as a whole in 1822, but probably somewhat earlier as a separate. In 1821, Germar, in the fourth volume of his *Magazin der Entomologie*, characterized his genus *Cobax* for a specimen of Kirby's *O. Stollii*, which he had received from Bahia, describing the species as *C. Winthemi*. Notwithstanding the fact that he claims the presence of ocelli for his genus, it seems to be equivalent to Kirby's *Otiocerus*, in which they are apparently absent, and is consequently placed as a synonym. In 1832, Burmeister, in his *Handbuch der Entomologie*, redescribed *O. Degeerii* as *Hynnys rosea*, differentiating his genus from *Otiocerus* by the extension of the elytra at their inner apical angles; but this character is now considered as of but subgeneric value at most. Genus *Anotia* was founded by Kirby on a single female example of *Bonneti*, and judging from a male in my collection, would seem to need modifying to include both sexes.

I propose in the present paper, after recording brief observations on a few species of *Otiocerus*, to describe a pretty little form occurring here, for which I find it necessary to establish a new genus, intermediate in character between *Anotia* and *Mysidia*.

Otiocerus Degeerii, Kirby. This, our largest species, is not uncommon here through July, August, and September. In color it varies from pale reddish to brownish purple, but always shows the white line on the suture before the appendix, and at the tip of the elytra. The antennæ, which are comparatively small, have but one appendage in both sexes. The males are a little smaller than the females, and are less frequently met with.*

Otiocerus Stollii, Kirby. One specimen, a male, beaten from an oak near this city, August 18, 1888. This small species is of the same dark color we find in the preceding. A pale rosaceous vitta occupies the vertex, the middle of the thorax, and the elytral suture, as far as the tip of the clavus, beyond which is a pale line at the base of the appendix, as in *Degeerii*. The two carinæ, which are closely approximated on the point, diverge slightly just before the apex; on the vertex they are a little arched above the eye, and their edge is finely crenated. The antennæ are larger than in *Degeerii*. This insect must have a wide distribution, as it was described from Georgia by Kirby, and from Bahia, Brazil, by Germar. It is quite distinct from the *O. Stollii* of Spinola (*Ann. Soc. Ent.*, Fr. VIII., p. 385), and of Amyot & Serville (*Hemip.*, p. 514), which Dr. Fitch considers equivalent to his *Amyotii*.

Otiocerus Coquerbertii, Kirby. This, our most beautiful, as it is our most abundant species, occurs here with *O. Degeerii* from July to Sept. on various trees and bushes, especially on the beech, maple, oak, and hickory. Its two appendages exceed the antennæ in length. In size it approaches *Degeerii*, but represents another facies of the genus; distinguished by a pale ground color, relieved by a broad vitta of red or fuscous, extending from the tip of the head across the eye and thorax, and along the elytra near the suture to the tip of the clavus, where it forks, one branch bordering the internal apical margin, the other deflected to the apex of the costa. Their wings are clear or white, immaculate, and the frontal keels are approximate on the lower part of the face. Here belong *Signoreti*, Fitch; *Reaumurii*, Kirby; *Wolfii*, Kirby; and *Amyotii*, Fitch.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

* Since writing the above, M. Provancher has (*Petite Faune Ent. du Canada*, Vol. III. *Hemip.*, p. 217, May, 1889) described an insect as *Amphixepa* (!) *Coquerbertii*, referring it to Kirby's species with hesitation. From his description it cannot be the *Coquerbertii*, but it agrees in every particular with pale examples of *Degeerii* that not infrequently occur here, and probably should not be considered as deserving even a varietal name.