

Mr. Douglas Clemons was the first, on June 27, 1905, to notice the presence of this insect, and after securing one specimen, several parties were made up from the National Museum and attempts made to get additional ones. As a result of five trips, four specimens were captured. Mr. Clemons stated that these cicadas were very hard to locate among the tops of the tall trees. The throwing of stones and other missiles would not disturb them, simply making them sing the louder.

—Mr. Heidemann then exhibited specimens and presented the following notes on a species of Ceratocombidæ:

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF THE HEMIPTEROUS FAMILY CERATOCOMBIDÆ FROM THE UNITED STATES.

BY O. HEIDEMANN.

Messrs. E. A. Schwarz and Douglas Clemons have lately found a new hemipteron which I identified as a ceratocombid. Members of this family are spread all over the world. In 1852, Prof. O. M. Reuter monographed the family, dividing it into two subfamilies, Ceratocombinæ and Schizopterinae. The first has 3 genera and 13 species, the other 6 genera and 14 species. More recently Prof. P. R. Uhler described some species from the West Indies and two others from Las Vegas Hot Springs, New Mexico. One or more additional species are known to me from the eastern States. Our peculiarly formed tiny insect, which is not much over 1 mm. long, belongs to the second subfamily. It has a striking resemblance to a species described by Reuter from New Caledonia,* *Hypselosoma oculata*. The general outlines are nearly the same, but judging from Reuter's figure our species differs in having a distinct raised venation with cross-veins forming a few cells on the elytra. Moreover, our species seems to have a broader head and comparatively shorter body, and I think we may safely consider it as representing a new genus.

Glyptocombus, new genus.

Body broad and oval, very convex, somewhat pointed towards the apex. Head transverse, its width taken from eye to eye half the length

* Monographia Ceratocombidarum orbis terrestis. Acta Soc. Scient. Fenn., XIX, No. 6, p. 26, 1863.

of the whole body, and broader than the basal part of the pronotum; vertex triangularly rounded, front depressed, vertical, clypeus small, narrow, slightly protruding in front, blunt at tip, transversely wrinkled and shining. Eyes extremely large, twice as long as broad, reniform, somewhat coarsely faceted. A remarkable feature is, that the eyes reach down to the lateral margins of the pronotum beyond the middle. Antennæ four-jointed and inserted in front of the eyes near the inner side; first two joints cylindrical, very slightly thinner towards the base, the others slender, beset with fine, long bristles. Rostrum three-jointed, quite robust, and a little curved. Pronotum twice as broad as long, moderately convex; lateral margins behind the eyes short; anterior margin between the eyes faintly depressed, with a transverse grooved line behind it, giving that part of pronotum a neck-like appearance; before the disk of the pronotum two smooth indentations; posterior

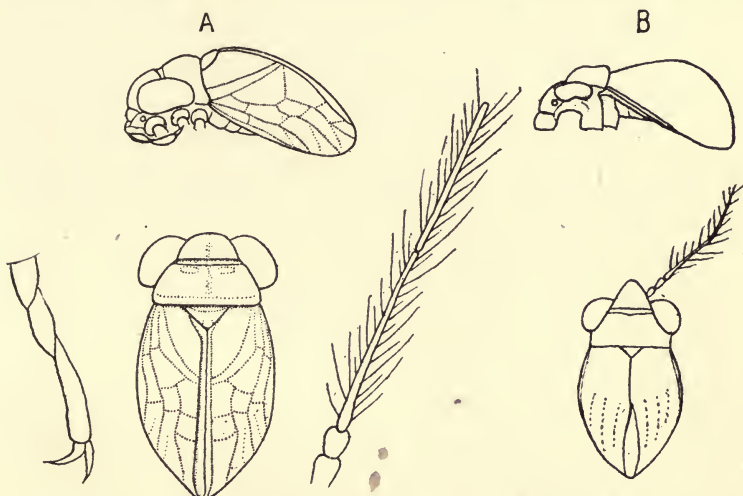


FIG. 21.—*Glyptocombus saltator*, A; *Hypselosoma oculata*, B. (B, copied from Reuter.) margin slightly decurved. Scutellum broad, triangular, a deep impression near the base, the tip a little tumid. Hemelytra high and very convex, bending around the sides of abdomen and slightly surpassing the same; lateral margins of the elytra gently rounding from the base to behind the middle, then strongly curving to the apex. Veins and cross-veins very distinctly visible, a little raised, forming some cells. The inner margin of the elytra runs from the scutellum to the apex of the body and has the membrane subparallel, narrow, a little widening behind, where it is coriaceous like the elytra. The anterior cavity for the insertion of the front legs is very prominent and tumidly formed. Legs comparatively long; front femora not shorter than the tibiæ, the

latter a little inflated at tip; hind legs the longest, the femora not saltatorial, although the insect has the jumping habit; tibiæ slightly longer than the femora; tarsi three-jointed, basal joint of the posterior tarsus a trifle shorter than the second joint. Abdomen highly rounded, a little shorter than the hemelytra.

Glyptocombus saltator, new species.

Body dull blackish, sparsely covered with fine, silvery hairs, which are more dense on the pronotum and head. Eyes somewhat shining, black. Antennæ honey-yellowish, basal joint but slightly longer than second, the third a little abruptly thickened at base and nearly equal in length to the fourth, which is more hairy. Rostrum yellowish brown, reaching to the middle coxæ; second joint somewhat longer than the basal one; the last very short, much pointed, and darker at tip. Pronotum with a slight longitudinal impression and also a transverse one before the posterior margin; the surface finely rugulose. Lateral margins of the scutellum cinereously spotted. Hemelytra remotely but deeply punctured; the raised nervures covered with a cinereous film. Legs yellowish-brown, pilose, having also some short, stiff hairs; the femora, basal part of tibiæ, and tip of tarsi darker. Underside of abdomen dull blackish and densely pilose, with the apex of the abdominal segments fringed, the last segment partly polished.

Length 1.2 mm.; width 0.6 mm.

Four specimens, Plummers Island, Md., September 9, 1905 (Clemons), October 4, 8, 1905 (Schwarz, Heidemann).

Type.—No. 9785, U. S. National Museum.

This species is most difficult to collect and is only to be found by sifting fallen leaves, rubbish, and earth. The collector must watch patiently until the minute insect makes its presence known by jumping, and even then it takes a skillful hand to secure it in a vial. After many efforts we collected only four specimens.

—Dr. Howard described a sifting machine recently made by Prof. Berlese, of Florence, Italy. He had had the good fortune to witness the machine in operation and hence could testify to its actual value as a collector. Briefly described, the sifter consists of a tray made of wire netting into which a bushel or less of the material to be sifted is placed. The tray rests on a funnel at the lower end of which is placed the collecting vial. This funnel is surrounded by a box containing water which is heated by means of a gas jet or alcohol lamp.