

No. 2. Nine ♀, one ♂ (taken by Mr. Fletcher at Victoria, V. I.,  
24-5-85.)

No. 3. One ♀ (from Rev. Geo. W. Taylor, Victoria, V. I.), three ♂.

No. 4. Two ♀, one ♂.

Although readily separating into these groups, they do not offer any differences of structure sufficient to constitute distinct species. Nos. 1 and 3 have the abdomen entirely black, except that the ♂ of No. 1 has a triangular white spot on apex. No. 2 has four segments black, except the ♂, which has only two, as in the European *coronatus*. No. 4 has only the first segment black, and the ♂ has a white spot on apex.

The antennæ and legs of all have white markings, varying slightly in extent, and Nos. 1 and 4 have short white lines on face. In the specimens from Victoria the smoky band of the anterior wings extends to the tip and also towards the base.

I have vainly sought to find a record of any definite information as to the life history of *Oryssus*. Regarding the European species, Lucas, *loc. cit.*, says "they are found in our woods, in the spring-time, resting upon old trees exposed to the sun, and often upon those which have been cut; they run very quickly in a straight line, moving also sideways, and even backwards. Fir trees, beeches and oaks are the trees that they prefer." Brullé (*Hist. Nat. des Insectes, Hyménoptères*, vol. iv., p. 638) quotes Dahlbom as placing *Oryssus* near *Cynips*, and conjecturing that the larvæ live in galls. Blanchard (*Les Métamorphoses des Insectes*) states that these insects have, "but without doubt wrongly," been attached to the *Uroceridæ*, and that they are "rare Hymenoptera yet unknown in their transformations; remarkable for the ovipositor of the females, slender and folded under the abdomen. The type, *O. coronatus*, is sometimes met with in the middle of France." Glover (*U. S. Ent. Rept.*, 1877, p. 94,) affirms that "the larvæ bore in the wood of the willow." This is probably an inference on his part from the statement of Harris, that "these singular insects were taken upon a willow tree by my friend the Rev. L. W. Leonard" (Dublin, N. H.) Norton says, "little is known of the larva. Latreille and Klug suppose that they exist upon the wood of standing trees. Scopoli found them upon fir trees, and Latreille upon old house-beams." Provancher merely remarks that the larvæ are supposed to live upon conifers; living trees according to some, and dead ones according to others.

My specimens have, with the exception of the three noted from