

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XXXIII. LONDON, NOVEMBER, 1901.

No. 11

TWO NEW SPECIES OF LUCANIDÆ FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY H. C. FALL, PASADENA, CALIF.

Some two years ago I received from Mr. E. A. Schwarz a single example of a curious Lucanide bearing labels "Kaweah, Cal.," and "*Ceruchus* (?), n. sp." This specimen, as I have since learned, was one of a considerable number taken by Mr. Ralph Hopping six years ago on grain and wild grasses growing near the grain on a small sandy hill at the locality indicated. In a letter just received from Mr. Hopping, he states that he has this year taken four fresh specimens, May 17-20, at the same place, one flying in the bright sunshine shortly after noon, the others at twilight. Mr. Hopping has kindly sent me three more specimens, and I have seen two others in the collection of Mr. Fuchs, also from the same source. These specimens are all males, and I have little doubt that Mr. Hopping's entire catch is of this sex.

It is probable that Mr. Schwarz had given the species little or no study, inasmuch as no lengthy examination is needed to convince so experienced a coleopterist that it can not possibly be a *Ceruchus*. On further investigation it appears equally certain that it is not assignable to any of the known genera of the family. Scarcity of material, together with the small size of the insect, has prevented a satisfactory examination of the oral organs, a fact which makes somewhat difficult the determination of its affinity with described genera as at present classified. It is, however, questionable if the characters drawn from the ligula and maxillæ are of any greater significance than several others much more easily observable, and a knowledge of their precise form in the present instance would, I believe, throw little light on the relationship of this remarkable Californian species.

Following the classification adopted by LeConte and Hern, our species would, by the structure of the mentum, the straight antennæ, and the nearly contiguous front coxæ, fall into the *Ceruchini*; but the differences in other respects are too numerous and too radical to permit a