

NOTES ON COLEOPTERA—NO. 6

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Corymbites nigricornis Panz. (*metallicus* Payk. *nitidulus* Lec.)

This species is widely distributed in North America, from Hudson Bay to Massachusetts, and westwardly to the Rocky Mountains, through which it extends to New Mexico. It also inhabits Siberia, Central and Northern Europe. The typical form (European) is described as metallic black, with the two basal joints of the antennæ and the feet rufous. The American forms found in Northern Michigan and at Sudbury, Ontario, agree with this description, except that I have seen no example with more than the first basal joint of the antennæ rufous. Moreover, specimens occur with the hind angles of the thorax rufescent, and the feet varied in different ways from rufous to entirely brown. From the more southern parts of Canada and from Massachusetts comes a form with a narrow margin and the hind angles of the thorax, its inflexed sides, the prosternal lobe, the epipleura of the elytra, sides of the abdomen and narrow posterior margin of the ventral segments rufous; the feet varying in colour, as in the typical forms.

Except in colour there appears to be no other separative, but this is so striking that it is not obvious, without some study, that the forms are all one thing. No such variation seems to have been recorded among the European forms.

Petalium bistriatum Say.—This is a very small thing, from .04 to .08 inch in length, black, with rufous feet and antennæ, and is frequently beaten from bushes by the collector. There is a form raised abundantly from dead hickory of two years, that is entirely castaneous, with the other characters noways different, except that the dorsal striæ of the elytra are fairly well marked, the intervals with rows of fine soft hair, and the 8th joint of the antennæ, though still short, can be seen in life with a lens; whether this is sufficient difference to be the basis of another species is left to the future monographer. The genus is readily known from all others in this difficult family by the large metasternum projecting forward separating widely the middle coxæ, and by the second ventral segment of the abdomen being as wide as the remaining three conjointly. The insects of this family have a very provoking habit of tucking away the antennæ and folding the legs so as to elude observation without a trouble-