

In the western and southern portions of this continent we have species which are large and abundant, and which there is every reason to believe possess all the activity we need, and the chief object of this paper is to draw attention to this fact, and if possible to acquaint our members with the appearance of these species, and detail their life history and habits as far as they are known, so that those who reside in these more distant regions may be induced to collect them in sufficient quantities to admit of their being thoroughly tested. It is not probable that they would be found in any respect less valuable as vesicating agents than the Spanish beetle.

Through the kindness of Dr. George H. Horn, of Philadelphia, whose extensive contributions to our knowledge of American Coleoptera have made his name familiar both in Europe and America, we have been supplied with much information in reference to the species here treated of; an acknowledgment is also due to Prof. C. V. Riley, State Entomologist of Illinois, for some valuable notes on the habits of these insects. We have also had a lithographic plate prepared by Messrs. Sinclair & Sons, of Philadelphia, under the kind supervision of Dr. Horn, in which each of the species referred to is figured of the natural size, excepting 7 and 8, which are somewhat enlarged. This plate is remarkably well executed, and is probably one of the best plates of Coleoptera ever published; besides the American species, it contains figures of *M. cichorii* and *C. vesicatoria*.

We shall first enumerate the species, giving brief descriptions, as plain and void of technicalities as possible.

1. *Meloe angusticollis* Say.—This insect (see fig. 1 on plate) is of a dark bluish violaceous color, with the head, thorax and wing-cases thickly punctured with minute dots or impressions. The thorax is slender, narrower than the head; feet slightly hairy, with the spines of the legs reddish. Found in the Eastern States and in many parts of Canada; occasionally abundant under stones.

2. *Cysteodemus armatus* Lec.—Entire body bluish black; thorax with a strong lateral spine on each side; wing-cases very convex, and much larger than the abdomen, which they cover, and with very coarse elevated reticulations on their surface. This insect varies greatly in size; the figure represents a medium sized specimen.

Extremely abundant in Arizona and the desert regions of California wherever the greasewood, *Larrea Mexicana*, grows. This insect is not as