

description, but as in other more easily demonstrable particulars subsequently pointed out, especially in the relative lengths of the antennal segments, there is no material divergence, this is perhaps attributable to an error of observation on the part of the describer. It differs from the Central American species noted by Champion in having the 2nd, 3rd and 4th antennal joints subequal, the first joint being the shortest and stoutest and somewhat curved, and in the bifid scutellar apex, in which last character it resembles the figures of *Hebrus major* Champ. and *H. hirsutus* Champ.⁶ In fact, in regard to the latter species, it would not surprise me at all to find it eventually transferred to *Merragata*, especially since in the unique type the antennæ were broken, but were assumed to be five-jointed, a somewhat risky proceeding in view of the fact that the generic difference lies in this character.

Nothing appears to be known as to the habits of the genus. I secured *M. hebroides* B. White in a ditch draining into the Canal de la Viga in Mexico City, in April of 1910, but made no further note than that it was taken by dredging in grasses growing into the water at the edge.

The recognized species of *Merragata* may be separated by the following key, based on Champion's, in the "Biologia Centrali Americana."

1. (2) Scutellum bifid at apex; antennal joints 2 to 4 subequal, joint 1 shortest, stoutest 1. *Lacunifera* Berg.
2. (1) Scutellum blunt, not bifid at apex.
3. (2) Antennal joints 1 to 3 subequal, 4 rather stout and fusiform 2. *hebroides* F. B. White.
4. (3) Antennal joint 3 slender and very much longer than 2; 4 slender and subfusiform.
5. (6) Pronotum deeply constricted at the sides. 3 *Leucosticta* Champion.
6. (5) Pronotum moderately constricted 4. *Brevis* Champion.

Neogenus (or *Hebrus*) and *Merragata* look extremely like *Microvelia* in the Gerridae, but the apical tarsal claws at once serve to distinguish them from the last named, in which they are subapical and set in a cleft in the tarsus. The two genera of *Neogeidae* (=Hebridæ) are thus distinguished:

Antennæ 4-jointed *Merragata* F. B. White.
 Antennæ 5-jointed *Neogenus* Laporte (= *Hebrus* Curtis).

6. 1898, Biol. Cent. Am., Het. II, pl. VIII, figs. 1 and 2.