

gate sutural spot extending from the middle till near the apex, the anterior and posterior extremities of which are more or less connected with arcuate transverse lines extending to the margin, enclosing on each elytron a black spot nearly destitute of white scales; the humeri are also similarly encircled; the sides of the thorax and abdomen are likewise moderately densely clothed with white scales; the striæ are deep, wide and coarsely punctured, with narrow rugose intervals. When first taken the insect has a very pruinose appearance, but rough handling or immersion in alcohol removes nearly all the scales, except the basal spot.

*Piazorhinus pictus* Lec. is not very common. I have taken three specimens and have seen three others. It probably lives on *Ostrya Virginica* (known here as Iron-wood). It is excessively variable in the color and ornamentation of its vestiture, no two of the six examples being alike, and only one of them approximating that of the type. Dr. LeConte described the species (Monograph Rhyncoph.) from a single insect taken in Georgia, as "Testaceous, clothed with pale yellowish pubescence; head and beak dusky. Elytra with a large, rounded, common, dusky spot, extending from the base to the middle, paler within; and a dusky, oblique band more or less interrupted on the seventh interspace, which attains the suture about one-fourth from the tip." Of those I have seen, one has the beak and head leonine yellow, like the thorax; the elytra being of the same color, mottled uniformly with brown; another has the beak, head and thorax typical, but the elytra are dusky brown with a streak along the external margins and an irregular fascia near the apex, tawny yellow; another has the beak and head typical, but the thorax has a dark spot in front of the scutellum and there is a small dark spot on each elytron near the middle. The others are still differently ornamented and need not be described, as the above shows sufficiently the variableness of the species in this respect. This species is likely to prove difficult for the collector to determine so long as he has the description of only one insect to refer to, and perhaps only about one in ten of his insects agreeing with it. This is one of the many cases that goes to show that, unless to meet urgent systematic requirements, it would give better results and prevent much confusion to await the accumulation of several specimens before attempting to describe a species.

Among the errors that have become widespread in exchanges it may be of advantage to notice the following:

*Microclytus gazellula* Hald. has lately appeared on several exchange