

# The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XXV.

LONDON, AUGUST, 1893.

No. 8.

## SOME INTERESTING COLOUR-VARIETIES IN THE GENUS CROSSIDIUS.

BY H. F. WICKHAM, IOWA CITY, IOWA.

While engaged in the re-arrangement of some boxes of Cerambycidae recently, the peculiar modifications of the ordinarily very simple pattern of coloration in the genus *Crossidius* brought about the desire to see to what extent and under what circumstances certain of these modifications were carried on or existent. The results of the studies ensuing thereupon are presented in the present paper.

The pattern which may be regarded as the typical one, and upon which all the others are built, either by simple addition or subtraction, is as follows:—Head black, thorax black with yellow side margins, elytra yellow with the humeri and a large elongate common sutural spot black. I do not wish it understood, however, that this is to be regarded as the original pattern from which the others have been evolved through the processes of natural or sexual selection—only as a common plan of coloration, and one which forms a convenient standard of comparison.

In habit the beetles are diurnal, frequenting flowers of golden-rod and other yellow-flowered Compositae, more especially in the arid regions of the United States and southward. In our faunal limits the genus is found from Montana and Oregon to Texas and Southern California, spreading over a vast extent of territory, and one of great differences in climatic and atmospheric, as well as of geologic characters. Under these circumstances we might well expect to find the genus composed of either many more or less closely allied species, or one or few very variable ones. My own experience goes to show that, in this group, those species of wide distribution offer many interesting variations, and to bring some of these before the reader I have prepared the accompanying plate, wherein the body and antennae of the insects are represented in a conventional manner, and all accuracy of delineation confined to the points under discussion—the clytral pattern.