

MELOE, Linn.

A most difficult genus to treat. The species are clumsy insects with short elytra, which do not cover the large, unwieldy abdomen. They may be found crawling about on low herbage during the cooler portions of the day, or sometimes on flowers; apparently they are most common in autumn and spring. When disturbed they emit a disagreeable fluid from the joints.

As one of the species is lacking in our collection, we have applied to Dr. Horn for the synopsis serving to separate the four Canadian forms among themselves.

Thorax evidently longer than wide, sparsely and irregularly punctate.

Elytra rather finely strigose and subopaque; general colour dull blue; head scarcely punctate.....*americanus*, Leach.

Thorax not longer than wide.

General colour black, dull; thorax coarsely punctured and with an impression on basal half of median line.....*impressus*, Kirby.

Blue-black, slightly shining; thorax moderately densely punctate, disk not impressed; elytra not roughly sculptured.....*niger*, Kirby.

Decidedly blue and rather shining; thorax very coarsely, deeply, not densely punctured, disk not impressed; elytra rather coarsely sculptured.....*angusticollis*, Say.

MACROBASIS, Lec.

Contains only one Canadian species, *M. unicolor*, Kirby. (Fig. 2.) The body is black, covered with whitish hairs which give an ashen appearance to the insect. The male differs from the female in having the second antennal joint longer than the third and fourth together.

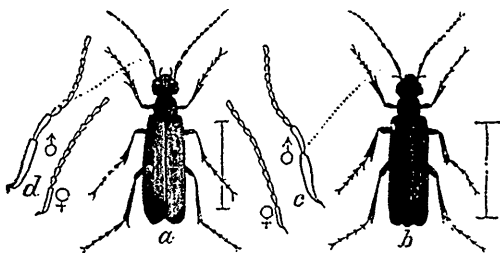


FIG. 2.

Length, .32-.64 in. Often occurs in such numbers on potato vines as to do considerable mischief.

EPICAUTA, Redt.

Four species recorded from Canada are included here. They resemble only the preceding genus in form and may be readily separated from it by the antennal characters. In habits they also resemble *Macro-*