

- bb. Head unspotted; punctures of elytral striæ finer towards apex.
 Thorax with black spot anteriorly (.13-.14 in.) . . . *triopsis*, Say.
 Thorax immaculate (.16 in.) *fasciatus*, Aubé.
- AA. Thorax with an impressed plica on each side near the base; smaller species.
 Pale ochreous yellow; punctuation stronger, thoracic plica shorter (.11-.12 in.) *ruficollis*, DeG.
 Fulvous; punctuation less strong, thoracic plica longer (.12 in.) *longulus*, Lec.

CNEMIDOTUS, Er.



Our two species are easily distinguished from those of *Haliphus* by the thorax being ornamented with two black basal spots. Mr. Crotch unites under the name *12-punctatus* (fig. 5) the two forms which have been separated on these characters:

- Hind coxæ with a prominent angle on the hind margin (.15 in.) *12-punctatus*, Say.
 Hind coxæ without this angle (.16 in.) *muticus*, Lec.

The next family, the DYTISCIDÆ, is separated with ease from the *Haliplidæ* by the following characters: the body is usually much less stout and convex and more obtuse at the ends; the antennæ are eleven-jointed, usually filiform, though occasionally somewhat clavate or thickened at middle, inserted under the front behind the base of the mandibles. The posterior coxæ are large, reaching the sides of the body, but not covering the ventral segments. Legs natatorial, ciliate with long hairs. From the *Carabidæ* they may be known by the structure of the hind coxæ mentioned above.

All the species are more or less strictly aquatic in habit, and are as a rule strong swimmers. They may be found in numbers in ponds and water courses, sometimes being seen under the ice after the approach of winter. At night they fly around and are often attracted by lights. Some of the more northern forms, especially of *Agabus* and *Hydroporus*, may be taken under wet moss, or beneath stones or boards which have been lying on the grass in marshy places. The sexual modifications in the family are very interesting, the males often possessing a peculiar modification of the anterior (and less frequently the middle) tarsi, whereby the basal joints are dilated into a more or less cup-shaped surface, which is studded beneath with little stalked disks. The number of these disks in