

easily known ; the other is gray with indeterminate whitish, and requires care to distinguish it ; the most certain mark being the granular punctuation at the sides of the thorax, no other species that resembles it having this form of punctuation. Very few of the species of this genus can be satisfactorily determined from the Synopsis, and to Dr. Horn I am indebted for rendering the identity of the ones treated of certain.

*Magdalis Lecontei* Horn. The original describer gives its distribution as from Kansas to California and Oregon. To it has been referred a blue or blackish green species, much smaller (.15 to .18 inch.) found here, and of which I have specimens from Eastern Pennsylvania and Canada. While agreeing in having simple claws, non-serrate thorax and-dentate femora, a comparison of the two forms shows them to be different. The western form has the back longer and more polished, the thorax more finely punctured, the elytral striae finer, flat, the intervals broad, finely transversely rugulose with a very distinct row of punctures down the centre of each ; (length, .20 to .25 inch.) The other has the striae wider and more coarsely punctured, the intervals semi-convex, narrow, coarsely rugose, and the row of punctures nearly obsolete.

Another form with blue elytra occurs on spruce, of which I have seen but one specimen taken here. The thorax is canaliculate and the hind angles more explanate than in *Lecontei*.

*A quick method of cleaning greasy Coleoptera, etc.* Lately I have employed the following method with the happiest results. It may be old and well known, but I do not remember to have seen it suggested. Dip the insect one half to one minute in spirits of ammonia (Liquor ammoniæ), wash in water (the hotter the better), and the thing is done. Offensive beetles like *Trox*, *Silpha*, etc., can be cleaned and purified instantly. How far the ammonia may be employed in cleaning Lepidoptera and other insects I do not know, but it renewed the beauty of two very greasy specimens of *Cossus Centerensis*.

This liquid also dissolves the verdigris that forms on the pins passed through insects ; but the insect must remain longer in the ammonia and be more carefully washed.