

*Lepidocyrtus americanus*, n. sp.

Length, 1.5 mm.; with spring unfolded above 2 mm.; head bent strongly downward, as in *L. curvicolis*, Lubbock; antennæ 4-jointed, more than one-half length of body; basal joint not much more than one-half length of others, which are subequal; abdomen with four segments, the third of which equals one-third length of body; legs tapering, with minute terminal tarsal joint; armed at apex with large spur, notched at tip and below, which is a strong simple spur or spine; spring more than half length of body, jointed at centre, the apical portion bifurcated; densely clothed with long fine hairs; terminal rays very finely and regularly comb-notched on lower or posterior edge and somewhat curved downward at tip, with three or four short, rather distinct, teeth at extreme tip; catch a strong groove or sheath extending one-third length of venter of abdomen and grasping spring strongly up to middle joint; body clothed with flat striate scales, and dorsally with scattering heavy, almost clubbed, hairs; the anterior margin of pronotum is ornamented with very dense tuft or fringe of strong hairs; hairs of antennæ and legs for the most part fine and long. Colour silvery gray, marked with violet-purple, lighter on antennæ and legs and very dark on body markings; eyes black; antennæ, except base of lower joints, femora and tibiæ, with spot connecting antennæ, light purple; anterior and lateral margins of thorax, spots along side of body, hind margin of second, third and fourth abdominal segments, lateral spot on middle of third segment, dark purple, sometimes appearing almost black.

One-third and one-half grown specimens do not differ from adult notably, except in size and very slightly in coloration. The illustration which is presented herewith is sufficiently elucidated in the accompanying explanation. In the figure the head is bent up more than in its normal position in state of rest. The mouthparts are very difficult to work out. The labrum is simple. The right and left mandibles differ notably in the character of the teeth on their inner edges. The maxillæ and labium are of similar structure, consisting of large basal lobes, apically covered with long and rather dense brushes of hairs. The food of the insect, from the appearance of the alimentary canal, consists of particles of dust, possibly taken by the insect in its feeding on the moist vegetable moulds of decay which may be assumed to be its normal food, in the absence of any other evident material on which it could subsist.