

towing-net, I did not find them common, and never observed any movement after capture, owing to their delicate soft bodies being injured by the passage of water and other things through the net."

2. *Halobates micans*, Esch. (Pl. I. fig. 2).

*Halobates micans*, Esch., Entomographien, i. p. 107, No. 78*b*, Taf. ii. fig. 3, 1822.

Burmeister, Handbuch der Entomologie, vol. ii. p. 208, No. 1, 1835.

Blanchard, Hist. Natur. des Insectes, vol. iii. p. 98, No. 1, 1840.

Herrich-Schäffer, Die wanzenartigen Insecten, vol. viii. p. 110, 1848.

Frauenfeld, Verhandl. der k. k. zool. bot. Gesellsch. in Wien, p. 458, Taf. xii. fig. 5, 1867.

Widely oval, widest behind the middle. Hoary ash grey, lighter below. Antennæ and legs black, front femora bluish. Antennæ with second and third joints equal in length.

♀. Length 4, breadth 2·25, middle femur 4·6 mm.

*Habitat*.—Reported by Eschscholtz from the South Pacific and South Atlantic Oceans, and by Frauenfeld from the Indian Ocean, near Ceylon (lat. 3° N.).

I have not seen this species, and the above diagnosis and the following description are drawn up from the writings of Eschscholtz and Frauenfeld. Both these writers say that they have seen males only, but they confused the sexes—Eschscholtz's figure representing a female.

♀. Closely allied to *Halobates willerstorffi*. Widely oval or conical. Hoary ash grey or blackish-grey, somewhat shining, brighter coloured below. With (according to Eschscholtz) brassy reflections, which, however, Frauenfeld denies. Eyes black. Antennæ and legs black, the front femora bluish. Abdomen whitish-grey. Antennæ (Pl. I. fig. 2, *a*.) rather slender, rather longer than half the body, first joint as long as the other three together; second and third equal in length; fourth joint longer than the third. Pronotum strongly concave in front, nearly straight behind; disk with two rather long foveæ anteriorly. Mesonotum strongly convex anteriorly.

According to Frauenfeld, *micans* differs from *willerstorffi* in the slenderer antennæ, with longer first joint, and second and third joints equal in length; legs more slender, and, except the front femora, without any bluish tinge.

Dr. Rogenhofer kindly measured, at my request, some of Frauenfeld's specimens in the Vienna Museum, and states the proportions of the joints of the tarsi to be as follows:—First joint of front tarsus very little shorter than the second joint; middle tarsus one-sixth shorter than the middle tibia; first joint of middle tarsus less than three times the length of the second.

As Frauenfeld was acquainted with both species, there can be no doubt that *micans* exists as a species distinct from *willerstorffi*, but whether all the specimens that