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A STUDY OF VARIATION IN THE MARKINGS OF
CHAULIOGNATHUS PENNSYLVANICUS
De G. AND *CHAULIOGNATHUS*
MARGINATUS FAB.

ETELKA ROCKENBACH

The family Cantharidae includes among its more common members the soldier-beetles, belonging to the genus *Chauliognathus*. Of the fourteen species of this genus known to occur in North America, the two species herein considered, are the only ones at all common in the central and eastern United States.

Chauliognathus marginatus Fab. resembles *pennsylvanicus* in form, but is usually smaller and more narrow. The head is in great part yellow; the thorax with a broad black median stripe reaching from base to apex. The thorax is longer than wide. This species is found feeding in the summer on wild parsley and related plants.

Chauliognathus pennsylvanicus De G. can be distinguished by the fact that the thorax is wider than long. The head and under parts are black, the thorax yellow with a broad black spot on basal half, and the elytra yellow with an oblong-oval blackish spot on apical third. It occurs most abundantly in the autumn upon flowers of golden rod and allied plants.

Many insects hold true to some scheme of marking with amazing fidelity, while some others show many color phases. These two soldier-beetles display wide variations.

The readily apparent differences in markings in *C. pennsylvanicus* is confined to the pronotum. Two hundred specimens collected at random, were studied. These were readily separable into thirty-eight groups. On the plate showing these different forms, the number of specimens of each group is indicated.

Two hundred specimens of *C. marginatus* were likewise studied. In this species, the variation in color patterns involves head and elytra as well as the thorax. Forty-five groups were found. The number in each case is shown on the drawing.

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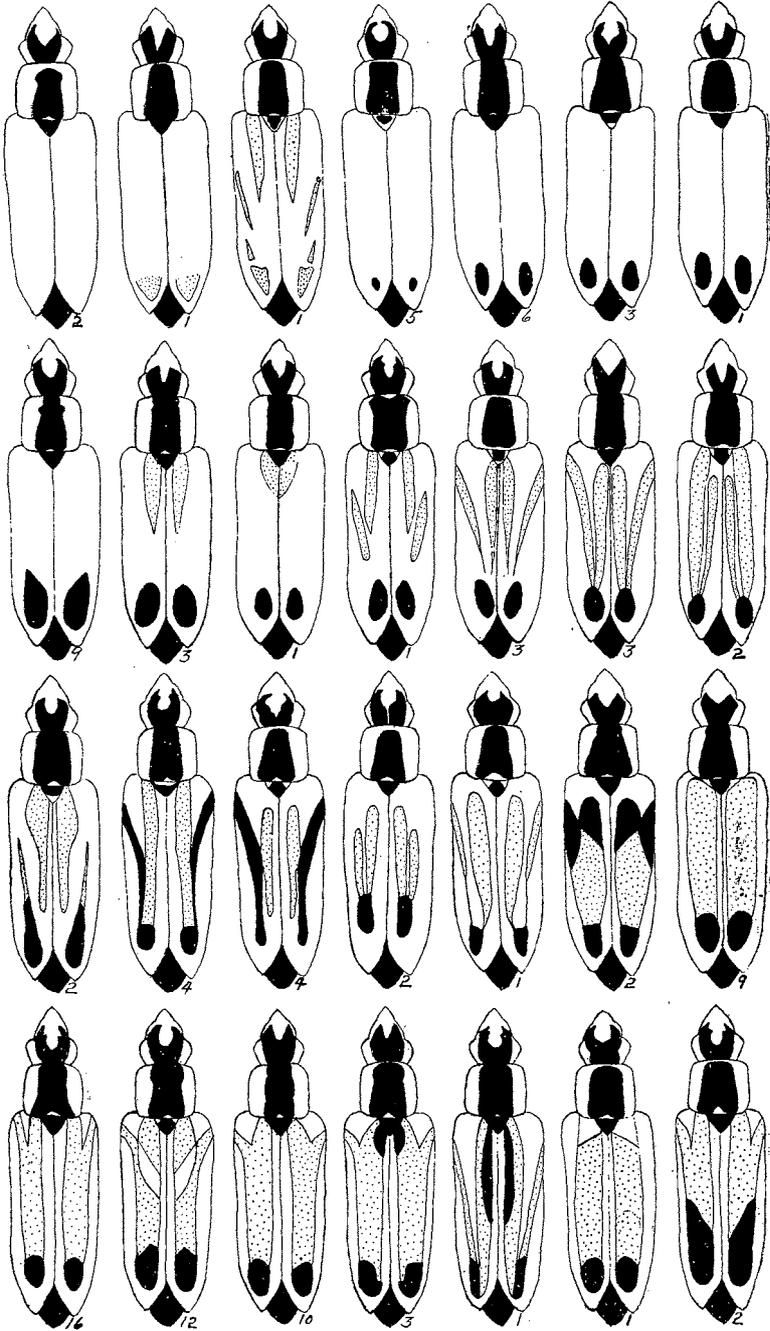


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of body of *Chauliognathus marginatus*.

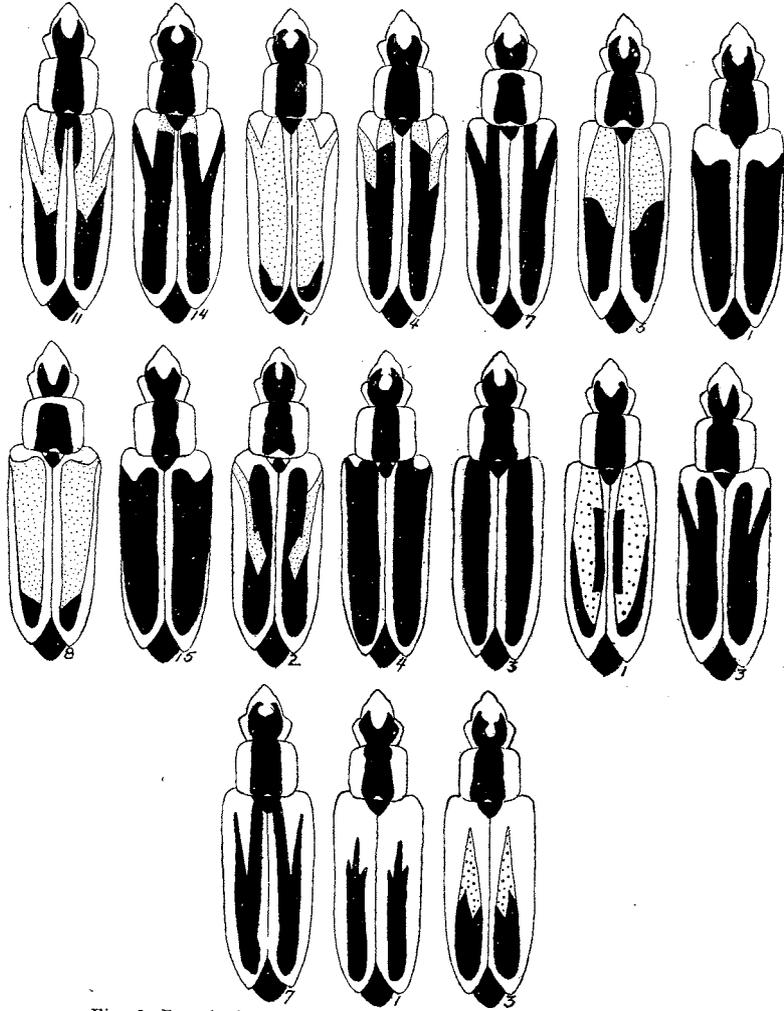


Fig. 2. Dorsal view of body of *Chauliognathus marginatus* continued.

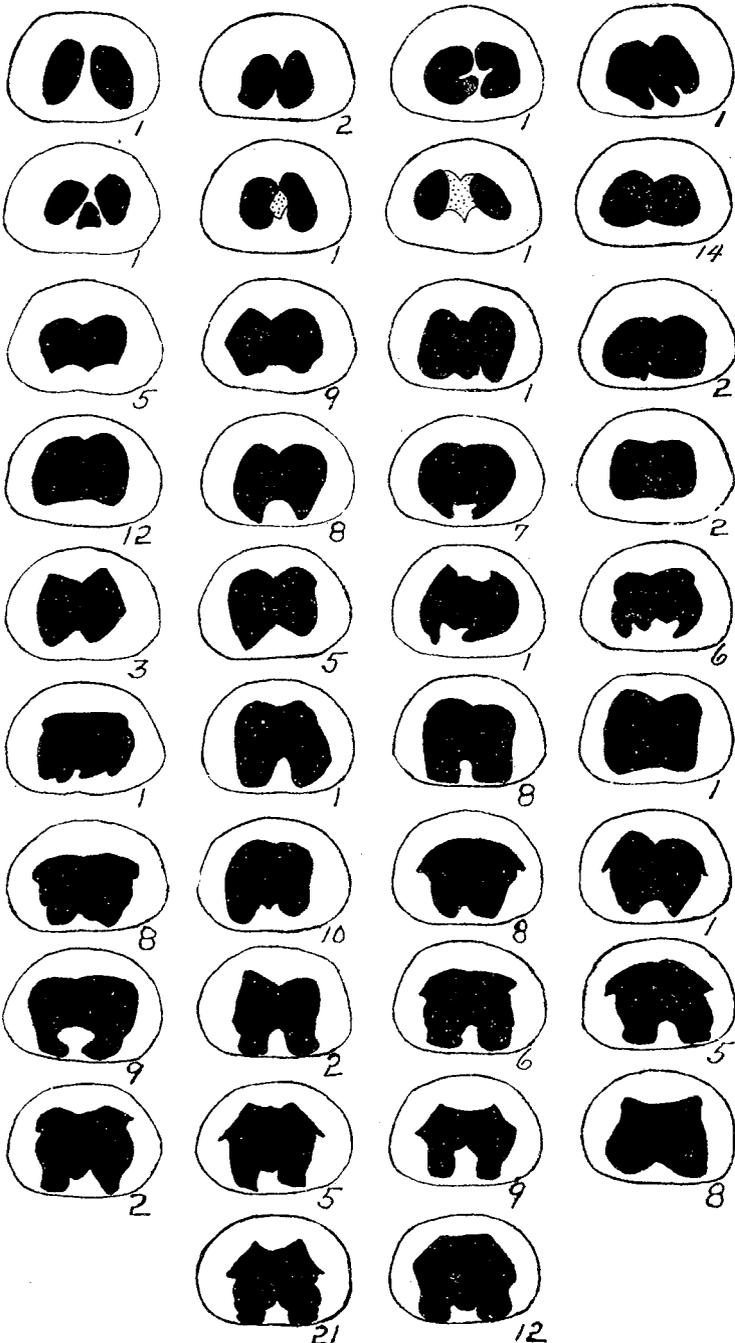


Fig. 3. Dorsal view of Thorax of *Chaullioignathus Pennsylvanicus*.