The Dytiscidae and Hydrophilidae, as mentioned above, consist together of over 300 species. I shall not, however, make any general remarks on these insects, for though this number of species is far from inconsiderable, the two families are but little adapted for consideration in questions of zoo-geography. The Dytiscidae are apparently subject to different laws of distribution from other Coleoptera, illustrating in this respect what I believe is the case with aquatic organisms generally, viz. diminished endemcity; and though the family Hydrophilidae is not so purely aquatic as the Dytiscidae, yet, on the other hand, it is one of the most neglected of all the families of Coleoptera. Moreover there is another reason why water-beetles, though possessing a special interest in certain respects, should be at present omitted in the discussion of faunistic questions, viz. that they require special apparatus to obtain them, and so they are very unequally collected—the collector rarely troubling himself to carry a water-net in addition to his other implements, so that they are frequently passed over and not procured even in spots where they are really numerous.

By far the larger part of the volume is occupied with the great family Staphylinidae, of which we register 1405 species. In the temperate regions of the world this family is more numerous in species than the Carabidae, and is about equal in this respect to the Curculionidae; but it has been hitherto supposed to be less numerous in species in the tropics. There are undoubtedly some tropical regions, especially such as possess an arid climate, that are deficient in Staphylinidae; but taking the world all over, I believe the family will be found to maintain its supremacy of specific multiplicity without much diminution. Actually, however, statistics would not show this to be the case; for the total number of described species of Staphylinidae outside the Nearctic and Palæarctic regions cannot at present, I should think, amount to 3000 species. The study of this great family is therefore practically in its infancy, and very little can be done with advantage in the comparison of our Staphylinidae with those of other regions. The South-American Staphylinidae are very little known; and the North-American list, though it comprises upwards of 900 species, is very incomplete.

The 1400 species ascertained to exist in the Mexican or (as I think it would be better called) the Central-American subregion can be actually but a small part of its true Staphylinid-fauna, which if exhaustively explored would probably be found to be nearer 4000 than 3000 species. In order to procure the insects composing this family a skilful and persevering collector is absolutely necessary: our Editors were fortunate in securing such a one in the person of Mr. Champion; but for the provinces of our subregion not visited by him our records are comparatively very imperfect. In order