The majority of the Cassididae are essentially tropical, and probably more than one half of the described species inhabit Tropical South America. Some genera, as Physonota, Coptocylca, Ctenochira, the eastern Aspidomorpha, &c., contain many species which are most brilliantly golden, silvery, or opalescent in life, the metallic colours fading immediately after death. These veritable living gems form a characteristic feature in tropical insect-life.

The Hispidae are much more retired in their habits than the Cassididae, and the species, with some few exceptions, are by no means so numerous in individuals, many of them occurring as single specimens on leaves in the forest. Some remarks upon their habits are given by Baly. A large number of undescribed species exist in collections.

G. C. C.

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