Old World. Many of the Central-American species are large and conspicuous, and being abundant in the various localities in which they occur, are doubtless (as Mr. Wallace states) protected from the attacks of birds and other enemies by the possession of some noxious smell or taste. The coloration and markings of the different species are (with some remarkable exceptions) constant, and show little tendency to variation; in some groups a uniform pattern runs, with but little change, through a series of specific forms, in many cases belonging to separate genera.

It will be seen that I have, as formerly, used the modifications in size and shape of the labium in the arrangement of the generic groups.

The labium is large and exposed, and is thus readily examined in situ by an ordinary microscope without risk of injury to the specimens; it is divided into two segments, the mentum and ligula.

I. The mentum, or basal segment, is connected by its lower edge with the margin of the skull, and is attached on either side to the maxilla; at first small, and forming a single piece with the ligula, it gradually increases in size until ultimately it forms the larger portion of the whole labium.

II. The ligula: this segment is placed in one division of the family at the apex, in the other on the dorsal surface of the mentum; it consists of two subsegments, the basilar and apical, which are separated from each other by well-defined sutural lines; the basilar portion, from the anterior surface of which spring the labial palpi, varies greatly in size and shape; in the earlier genera of the family it is large and prominent, but gradually dwindles away in exact ratio to the increase of the mentum, until at length (Chondrina) it, together with its appendages, the labial palpi, entirely disappears; the apical subsegment is corneous, and sometimes placed at the apex, sometimes on the dorsal surface of the preceding subsegment; in the latter case it is hidden from view.

I should not have thought it necessary to make these remarks had not the late Dr. Chapuis (Gen. Col. t. xi. p. 252) questioned the accuracy of my nomenclature of these parts, and in so doing fallen into a singular error, which, if not corrected, might tend to mislead future students of the group.

After having stated (l. c. p. 255) that the maxillae are attached, one on either side, to the base of the mentum, he proceeds to say that there is often an additional segment, the sous-menton, placed between the true mentum and the margin of the head, referring to Cat. Hisp. tab. i. A a, and fig. 8 f as illustrating the part in question. He thus divides the labium into three segments:—1, a basal one, or sous-menton; 2, an inter-mediae, or menton; and 3, the languette, which, according to his statement, carries the labial palpi.

Had he, however, examined the parts in nature, for example, in Alburnus, to which figure he refers, he would have seen that the maxillae are attached to the short transverse segment (his sous-menton), showing it, even according to his own views, to be the true mentum; had he carried his investigations further, and examined the second segment, which he terms the menton, he would have found that the labial palpi spring,