in the form of a small segment, which is parted in the middle *(though not always projecting beyond the true segment). This appendage is certainly homologous with the inferior valvæ of the ovipositor, which are formed by the connecting membrane of the eighth segment. The last ventral segment is parted by a ridge, a character indicating a tendency of this segment to divide into two parts, so as to form the superior valvæ of the ovipositor. The structure of the eighth and ninth (seventh and eighth as seen without dissection) segments shows a rudimentary, but evident, tendency to the formation of an ovipositor †. In the males (Tab. XI. fig. 2) the last two ventral segments are simple, without any such modification, and the terminal one is almost square.

Nevertheless, the two sexes are not always easy to distinguish on account of the characters of the females being rather variable. Generally, the appendix of the eighth segment is not produced and apparent, and in some species the notch of this segment is obsolete—*e. g.* in *T. histrionicus*, the eighth segment in this insect being, on the contrary, produced in the middle, instead of notched (Tab. XI. fig. 1).

The differences between the sexes are best summarized as follows: ♀, last ventral segment usually parted by a ridge, the hind margin of the preceding segment notched or produced in the middle; ♂, the last ventral segment entire, the penultimate segment transverse, entire.—In both sexes the cerci (Tab. XI. figg. 1, 2, 3, c) are two-jointed, and the anal appendages (Tab. XI. figg. 1, 2, 3, a) are entire and cylindrical.

Several species of *Tridactylus* have been characterized only by their markings and by the length of the wings; but the colour is of slight importance in this genus, the yellow markings being subject to disappear altogether, and the wings are very variable in their length, tending to atrophy in specimens of the same species. The real distinctive characters are to be found in the size, in the armature of the hind tibiae, and in the length of the posterior metatarsus; also, in some species, in the form of the anterior tibiae (♂), or in the structure of the last ventral segments (♀) ‡.

The *Tridactylus* are found abundantly, and with similar forms, in all parts of the world, except apparently Australia.

* Comp. Saussure & Zehntner, Revue Suisse de Zoologie, ii. p. 411, t. 16. fig. 20 u.
† Comp. Saussure & Zehntner, i. c. p. 411.
‡ It has been admitted that in some *Tridactylus* the anterior and intermediate tarsi are composed of three, and in others of two joints only. A careful examination of all the species in my possession has proved that the tarsi do not in any case possess more than two joints. The illusion of their possessing three joints is easy to explain by the fact that the first joint of the intermediate tarsi is lobed (Tab. XI. fig. 5), and appears under the magnifying-glass as if divided into two parts, and also by the fact that the lobule in which it terminates is often accidentally curved downwards and takes the appearance of an additional joint. Examination under the microscope explains these appearances. In consequence of this, the classification of the genus, as established formerly by Burmeister and by myself, should be modified: the divisions *X* and *Tridactylus*, Sauss., will form a single division only, and the name *X* as the more recent, must be excluded. The Central-American species must thus be co-ordinated with the synopsis here given.