

Amazons, although rich in species of genera belonging to alluvial plains, and in arboreal forms, contains only 576 species belonging to 124 genera; and the fauna of such tropical regions as the Malay archipelago is still poorer. The reason for the comparative paucity of Carabidæ has been supposed, apparently on good grounds, to be that their place, as predaceous terrestrial insects, is to a great extent occupied by the ubiquitous ants. The undoubted fact that purely epigæous Carabidæ, except marsh species, are scarce in the Tropics, especially near the Equator and in the lowlands, and that arboreal or climbing forms alone are numerous and varied, affords support to this hypothesis. The essentially Neotropical character of the Central-American fauna is generally admitted, and is strikingly confirmed by the Cicindelidæ and Carabidæ. But with regard to the northern limits of the fauna, and especially the extent to which Nearctic and North-temperate forms have penetrated the region from north to south, these are points not yet settled. Wallace included, or seemed inclined to include, the whole of the central highlands of Mexico and Guatemala in the Nearctic province, which must mean that the North-temperate American forms are there in the majority. The two families of Coleoptera we are dealing with do not support this conclusion. The Nearctic forms are comparatively few, and in the 'tierra templada' are far outnumbered by tropical genera. The northern limit of the Central American fauna appears to be—on the highlands, if not also on the maritime lowlands east and west—a little south of the political frontier of Mexico. Does the Central American fauna constitute one homogeneous province, or is it divisible into two subprovinces, as Salvin ('Ibis,' 1866, p. 202) has shown to be probably the case with the birds, many genera of which are represented by distinct species on each side of a line which he is inclined to place north of the Nicaraguan lakes and their outfall, the Rio San Juan?"

The thirteen plates include figures of 324 species.

Vol. I. part 2. By D. Sharp. *Halipidæ*, *Dytiscidæ*, *Gyrinidæ*, *Hydrophilidæ*, *Heteroceridæ*, *Parnidæ*, *Georissidæ*, *Cyathoceridæ*, and *Staphylinidæ*. For these nine families of Coleoptera 1790 species are enumerated, 1405 of which belong to Staphylinidæ, 168 to Dytiscidæ, and 141 to Hydrophilidæ, the others being of limited extent. The author, in his 'Introduction' (published in 1887), states that the water beetles (Dytiscidæ) are apparently subject to different laws of distribution from other Coleoptera, illustrating in this respect what he believes to be the case with aquatic organisms generally, viz. diminished endemicity, and therefore but little adapted for consideration in questions of zoo-geography. The study of the exotic Staphylinidæ appears to be practically in its infancy, and but little can be done in the way of comparison with the fauna of other tropical regions. In the case of genera with a large number of species and a wide distribution, the Central American Staphylinids are stated to be much more nearly allied to those of South than to those of North