

tropical regions of similar extent is impossible, as the necessary data do not exist in a connected form. The actual number of species described up to 1890, for the whole world, may be roughly estimated at 10,000.

The twenty-four plates illustrate 492 species.

Vol. III. part 1. *Serricornia*. *Buprestidæ* by C. O. Waterhouse; *Throscidæ* and *Eucnemidæ* by G. H. Horn; *Elateridæ**-*Dascillidæ* by G. C. Champion. For these families of the Serricorn-series, 1353 species are enumerated from Central America, 805 of which are described as new. The Buprestidæ were published in 1882-1889; the Throscidæ and Eucnemidæ in 1890; the remaining families in 1894-1897; and a short Appendix in 1897. The Buprestidæ, numbering 434 species (exclusive of those mentioned in the Appendix), do not appear to be very much in evidence, apart from the gigantic *Euchroma*, in the tropical forests of Mexico and Central America, their place being to a great extent taken by the conspicuous Elaterid-genera *Chalcolepidius* and *Semiotus*. The open parts of Mexico, however, have a rich Buprestid-fauna, as shown by the number of species obtained by Höge in his later expeditions to that country; these were enumerated in the 'Supplement' (published in 1889). The distribution of Conifers, which do not extend south of Nicaragua, probably affects the range of certain genera of this group. The Elateridæ, numbering 531 species, have exceedingly few endemic genera, and it may be said in a general way that the tropical forms are mostly confined to the forest regions, and that many of those inhabiting the open country or higher ground are nearly allied, or actually belong, to Nearctic genera. *Pyrophorus* has one species in North and sixteen in Central America, and is essentially Neotropical. The Dascillidæ, with 130 species and twenty genera, is one of the 'neglected' families of Coleoptera, and there are no available data for comparison with other regions. The Eucnemidæ, of which a table of the genera is given by Horn (pp. 211-213), are represented by 113, the Throscidæ by 44, the Cebrionidæ by 29, and the Rhipidoceridæ by 14 species.

The twenty-seven plates, one of which shows the form of the terminal segment of the males of the Buprestid-genus *Pachyscelus*, illustrate 648 species.

Vol. III. part 2. By H. S. Gorham. *Malacodermata*. This volume includes the following nine families:—Lycidæ, Lampyridæ, Telephoridæ, Lymexylonidæ, Melyridæ, Cleridæ, Ptinidæ, Bostrychidæ, and Cioidæ. The total number of species enumerated is 813; but as very many of our specimens added in the 'Supplement' were not critically examined by Mr. Gorham, it is probable that the actual number represented in the material obtained by our collectors is about 900. The author, in his

* First undertaken by E. W. Janson.