

survivors of some primitive group, suggesting a distant relationship with the Theraphosidæ in some respects, but in others far removed from them, and indeed from the majority of existing forms, by wide morphological gulfs, the connecting links having long since passed away.

These isolated families, such as the Filistatidæ, Hypochilidæ, Caponiidæ, Dysderidæ, &c., are, in short, probably nothing more than the mountain-peaks of faunal continents which have long been submerged beneath the waters of eliminating agencies. These still lift their heads above them, but their near relations have perished and left no trace behind.

In other spheres of evolution we recollect that the Basque and Etruscan systems of speech, which can claim kindred with no existing family of language, are excellent instances of the same phenomenon.

The family Filistatidæ can be conveniently divided into two genera, which may be distinguished by the following characters:—

- A. Anterior tibiæ and protarsi with rows of stout spines beneath. Protarsi i. and ii. with stout spines at the apex beneath. Sternum scarcely longer than broad, with two pairs of sigilla (sometimes obsolete). Central anterior eyes smaller than central posteriors; anterior and posterior centrals almost contiguous . . . . . *FILISTATA*, Latr.
- B. Anterior tibiæ and protarsi without rows of spines beneath. Protarsi i. and ii. without spines at the apex. Sternum distinctly longer than broad, without sigilla. Central anterior eyes equal to central posteriors; anterior and posterior centrals half a diameter apart . . . *FILISTATOIDES*, gen. nov.

FILISTATA.

*Filistata*, Latreille, Consid. gén. Crust., Arachn., et Ins. p. 121 (1810).

Type. "Espèce inédite trouvée aux environs de Marseille."

Lung-sacs two in number; tracheal stigmata two, situated midway between the lung-sacs and the spinners. Spinning-mamillæ six; calamistrum and cribellum present. Two pair of sternal sigilla present. Mandibles soldered along their inner margins, forming, with the labium and maxillæ, which are also soldered together, a haustellate proboscis. Eyes eight, in two closely situate groups of four on each side of a cephalic eminence. Thoracic fovea deep.

- A. Apical portion of palpal bulb shorter, strongly sinuous; apex broader, almost geniculate, strongly curved outwards (inner anterior aspect). *hibernalis*, Hentz.
- B. Apical portion of palpal bulb longer, attenuate, filiform, only slightly sinuous, almost straight throughout; apex slightly curved inwards (inner anterior aspect) . . . . . *tractans*, O. P.-Cambr.

Females.

- A. Femora and tibiæ of legs more slender, not clothed beneath with thick black hair . . . . . *hibernalis*, Hentz.
- B. Femora and tibiæ of legs stouter, clothed beneath, especially i. and ii., with thick black hair . . . . . *tractans*, O. P.-Cambr.