

## Fam. SCYTODIDÆ.

Eyes six. Lung-sacs two. Tracheal stigmata two, more or less remote from the genital rima. Mandibles soldered together at their base. Sternum without sigilla. Calamistrum and cribellum absent. Spinners six, with the colulus more or less well developed or absent. Tarsi with or without an onychium. Tarsal claws two or three. Mandibles with the external side striate. Femur of the palpus having one or more stridulating-spines on the inner side towards the base. Legs shorter, stouter, and somewhat laterigrade in articulation (*Sicarius*, *Loxosceles*, and *Sicarioides*), longer and more slender (*Scytodes*), spinose or clothed with simple fine hairs only. Palpal bulb of male simple, more complex in *Diguetia*. Vulva of female simple, externally consisting of a transverse rima only.

The family Scytodidæ includes four very distinct groups of spiders, comprised in the subfamilies Sicariinæ, Loxoscelinæ, Diguetiinæ, and Scytodinæ. There seems to be no sufficient reason for substituting the name Sicariidæ for the older name Scytodidæ, which latter has therefore been restored.

These subfamilies resemble each other in several characters, chiefly in the number of eyes and the possession of a stridulating-organ on the mandibles and the femur of the palpus. This structure is, however, found also in other groups, notably in *Caponina*, a two-eyed form of the family Caponiidæ, and in *Lepthyphantes*, *Tmeticus*, &c., amongst the Argiopidæ (Simon). They resemble each other also in the haustellate formation of the mouth-parts, beautifully constructed so that when the apices of the mandibles are brought together they form with the apices of the maxillæ a perfect suctorial apparatus, the mandibles being guarded in front of the fang by a soft chitinous piece serving to prevent the juices from escaping between the mandibles at their apex in front. The simple form of the vulva and that of the palpal organs of the male also prove the affinity of these forms.

The differences between these four subfamilies are very marked, though *Sicarius* and *Loxosceles* appear to be more closely allied to each other. The latter resembles *Scytodes* in the possession of a tarsal onychium and of a similarly constructed stridulating-apparatus, though otherwise, in general form, being much more like *Sicarius*. *Diguetia*, on the other hand, with its three tarsal claws, resembles *Scytodes*, and with its four femoral stridulating-spines, and in the absence of the colulus between the anterior spinners, approaches *Sicarius*, yet in the absence of the mandibular membrane and in the general form of the body differs from all three.

## Subfam. SICARIINÆ.

No colulus between anterior spinners. Anterior row of eyes approximately straight. Lateral eyes wide apart. Tarsal claws two, not set on an onychium. Clypeus very high, almost vertical. External side of mandible finely striate. Inner side of femur of palpus set with 5 or 6 short stout stridulatory spines. Mandibles with a membranous lip on the outer side at the apex. Palpus of female without a claw or claw-like appendage at the apex. Anterior margin of maxillæ not strengthened by a chitinous serrula. Carapace compressed. Central thoracic groove shallow and inconspicuous. Body and legs clothed with regular rows (or small groups on the body) of longer and shorter spines and bacilliform hairs.