

Class DIPLOPODA, Blainville.

Subclass CHILOGNATHA.

The known Central-American Diplopoda are referable to the following sections. On account of the diversity of opinion as to the value to be assigned to these sections, it is proposed in the following pages to designate them merely as "groups," setting aside the question as to whether they should take ordinal, subordinal, or superfamily rank:—

- a.* Mandibles degenerate or wholly suppressed; labral area of head pointed; eight pairs of legs in front of the legs of the seventh segment COLOBOGNATHA.
- b.* Mandibles not degenerate; labral region broadly truncated and emarginate; seven pairs of legs in front of the legs of the seventh segment.
- a*¹. Tergal plates furnished with three symmetrically disposed pairs of setæ; without scent-pores; sterna not coalesced with terga CHORDEUMOIDEA.
- b*¹. Tergal plates without such setæ; more or fewer with scent-pores; sterna, except on a few of the anterior segments, invariably coalesced with the terga (at least in the known Central-American species).
- a*². Number of segments great and inconstant in the species; from the fifth or sixth to the penultimate with a pair of scent-pores; phallopods of ♂ internal and derived from the posterior appendages of the seventh segment.
- a*³. Stipites (lateral plates) of gnathochilarium mesially in contact proximally IULOIDEA.
- b*³. Stipites of gnathochilarium widely separated proximally.
- a*⁴. Segments 1–5 with a single pair of legs SPIROBOLOIDEA.
- b*⁴. Segment 4 apodous, segment 5 with two pairs of legs SPIROSTREPTOIDEA.
- b*². Number of segments constant, 19 or 20; many without scent-glands; phallopods external, derived from anterior legs of seventh segment POLYDESMOIDEA.

Group I. COLOBOGNATHA.

Number of segments large and very variable within the species, with eight pairs of appendages in front of those of the seventh segment. None of the anterior segments apodous, the first four bearing one pair of appendages each, the fifth, sixth, seventh, and following segments, except the last two, which are limbless, with two pairs*. Head with its labral region narrowed or pointed distally; mandibles degenerate or suppressed; gnathochilarium narrowed distally, the mouth-parts being suctorial or

* I here adopt, at all events for the time being, the usual interpretation of the disposition of the appendages with reference to the segments, in preference to that put forward by Cook, who assigns a single pair of appendages to the first five segments, and two to each of the following segments, regarding the gonopods of the male as derived from the posterior pair of the seventh and the anterior pair of the eighth,