

### Fam. PYRGODESMIDÆ.

*Stylodesmidæ*, Cook, Ann. New York Acad. Sci. ix. p. 5 (1895) ; Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 82 (1895) ; Amer. Nat. xxx. p. 418 (May 1896) (in part.).

*Pyrgodesmidæ*, Silvestri, Ann. Mus. Genov. (2) xvi. p. 192 (March 1896) (in part.).

*Stiodesmidæ*, Cook, Brandtia, v. pp. 20 & 25 (June 1896).

*Pyrgodesminæ*, Attems, Denk. Akad. Wien, lxviii. p. 375 (1900).

*Decaporodesmidæ*, Kenyon, Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash. iv. p. 299 (1899).

Anterior border of first tergal plate produced into a semicircular, grooved, and lobate crest completely concealing and overlapping the head and forming a continuous series with the keels of the succeeding segments ; central part of the plate elevated and much higher than the crest. Head with a densely granular frontal area. Antennæ clavate, the fifth segment the longest and thickest. Dorsal surface of segments elevated, granular, with some larger tubercles forming a pair of longitudinal crests \*, one on each side of the middle line, frequently a similar but smaller crest between this and the base of the keels. Keels rising low on the sides, depressed or nearly horizontal, marginally grooved on the dorsal surface, with lateral and posterior borders lobate, the posterior lobe of the lateral border carrying the pore, when present, frequently on a papilla. Pores commonly suppressed on the 17th, 18th, and 19th segments, sometimes on others. Tergal plate of 20th segment moderately broad, not concealed by the keels of the 19th. Sterna very narrow. Basal portion of phallopods enlarged to form an arched hollow receptacle, in which the distal portion is more or less concealed.

*Distribution.* Tropical parts of America, Africa, and Asia.

I have adopted for this family the name *Pyrgodesmidæ* proposed by Silvestri, because, as Attems states, *Stylodesmus* appears to be a synonym of *Urodesmus* of Porat, and a family name must be derived from the one in use for one of the genera contained in that family. Again, even if in the future it be found that the type of *Stylodesmus* differs from that of *Urodesmus* in characters to which generic status can be given, it is quite possible that the view may be taken that *Urodesmus*, *Stylodesmus*, *Herco-desmus*, and others, in which the 19th segment is enlarged so as to conceal partially the reduced 20th segment, should constitute a family distinct from those genera, like *Lophodesmus*, *Pyrgodesmus*, and *Psochodesmus*, in which the 19th and 20th segments are normally constructed.

That this was the opinion of Cook in 1896, though not in 1895, appears from his latest paper on this group published in 'Brandtia,' where the family name *Herco-desmidæ* is given to the genera with abnormally formed posterior segments and *Stiodesmidæ* to those in which they present the usual conformation ; and it may be that his substitution of the name *Herco-desmidæ* for *Stylodesmidæ* was due to the discovery that *Stylodesmus* sinks into synonymy under *Urodesmus*. This, however, is not at all clear from his writings. In any case the name *Stiodesmidæ* is of later origin than *Pyrgodesmidæ* ; and the latter should, in my opinion, be used for the two genera recorded in this monograph, unless *Pyrgodesmus* with its single median turret-shaped dorsal processes

\* In the Ceylonese genus *Pyrgodesmus*, Poc., the two crests of tubercles are represented by a high upstanding turret-shaped process.