

Subfam. *PLATYRACHINÆ*.

Typical members of the family with the pores opening upon the upper side of the keels, sometimes close to the lateral edge, sometimes remote from it, and not insunk in distinct depressions, but surrounded by a thick circular rim, giving them the appearance of a cannon's mouth. Lateral edge of keels never smooth and thickened as in most *Polydesmoidea*, but generally narrow and granular, like the rest of the upper side of the keel.

Distribution. Central America (Costa Rica); West Indies; northern part of South America; Oriental Region east of Tenasserim.

The Central-American representatives of this group known to me fall into two well-marked sections, one of which is represented by a single species, the other by a considerable number. For the former I adopt the name *Tiroidesmus* given by Cook to an allied form. For the latter I retain the old name *Platyrachus*, C. Koch, of which the type, *P. scaber*, Koch, came from Brazil, and resembles in general features the species here referred to that genus. It must be remembered, however, that the generic diagnosis here given of *Platyrachus* was not taken from the type-species, in which the secondary sexual characters of the male and other important features are unknown, but from the Central-American forms enumerated below. Of the latter, however, I have seen representatives of only six out of the ten species. In the case of the remaining four, the descriptions given by their describers are not sufficiently detailed to supply the information necessary to give assurance as to their agreement in all respects with the diagnosis of the genus *Platyrachus* given below, and it is possible that disagreement from it may be found to occur in one or more minor points. This, however, would by no means necessarily involve exclusion of such deviating species from the genus; it would only necessitate modification of the generic diagnosis to meet the discrepancies.

The two genera may be contrasted as follows:—

- a. Phallopods arcuate, incurved and crossing at the apex, which is strongly upcurled, the sternum of the sixth segment excavated to receive them; keels of mid-region of body quadrate, with anterior border projecting at right angles to long axis of body, and with convexly rectangular anterior angle; legs and antennæ very short. PLATYRACHUS.
- b. Phallopods subparallel, projecting straight forwards, not apically upcurled; sternum of sixth segment in ♂ not excavated; keels aliform, the antero-lateral border forming a nearly continuous arch directed obliquely outwards and backwards, and uninterrupted by any marked anterior angle; legs and antennæ much longer TIROIDESMUS.

PLATYRACHUS.

Platyrachus, C. Koch, Syst. Myriap. s. 131. 1. iii. Bändchen zu (Panzer) Herrich-Schäffer, Krit. Revis. Insektenfaune Deutschl. 1847; Die Myriapoden, i. p. 47 (1863).
Polydesmus (*Stenonia*), Saussure, Mém. Soc. Phys. Genève, xv. p. 531 (1860).
Platyrrhacus, Attems, Brölemann, Carl (in part.).