

## Fam. SCOLYTIDÆ\*.

The species of Scolytidæ herein recorded from Central America amount to about 270, equalling one-fourth of the whole number previously described from all parts of the World. This total is capable of being greatly enlarged by future workers.

We have received few Scolytidæ except from Mr. Champion, and of those collected by him a large proportion are unique. Comparatively little knowledge has been gained of the Scolytid fauna outside those parts of Guatemala and Panama which Mr. Champion visited. An exception, however, must be made in the case of Mexico; a moderately large number of Scolytidæ have been obtained from the collection of M. Sallé. These consist chiefly of *Platypi*, which are of typical value, having all been examined and described by Chapuis.

The habits of Scolytidæ are very retired, and consequently these insects are difficult to collect without special search. More than one-half of the species here enumerated (*Platypodides*, *Xylebori*, *Corthyli*, and *Gnathotrichus*) are known, or may be confidently assumed, to be strictly xylophagous and not phlæophagous; such insects are hardly to be obtained except by chance. M. Grouvelle has forwarded me a large collection of Scolytids obtained in Paris from bales of Mexican and Brazilian tobacco. Though the original habitat of such specimens is always open to doubt, the collection contains numerous remarkable and as yet unknown forms, of which some at least must be Mexican.

A large proportion of unique examples greatly increases the difficulty of studying Scolytidæ. It is sometimes impracticable fully to determine the generic characters of obscure forms without dissection and microscopical examination; and this circumstance is responsible for the retention as a whole of certain genera of which division into two or more parts is desirable, and for the incomplete details which are all that can be given about certain species.

The genera into which these insects fall are either cosmopolitan, as *Platypus*, *Hylastes*, *Hypothenemus*, *Tomicus*, *Pityophthorus*, *Xyleborus*, or are of neotropical character. Of the latter, some, in the *Camptoceri*, *Bothrosterni*, and *Corthyli*, are represented by stragglers in North America, while others, *Tesserocerus*, *Chapuisia*, *Phlæoborus*, *Problechilus*, the *Hexacolides*, *Hylocurus*, *Amphicranus*, &c., so far as known, are rigidly Neotropical.

It is likely that the southward limit of many N.-American forms is determined

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