

## Tribe BRUCHIDES\*.

## Fam. BRUCHIDÆ.

THIS—one of the smaller of the families of Coleoptera—until comparatively recently was placed in the Rhyncophorous series, and is included in Schönherr's great work on the genera and species of Curculionidæ. It has, however, become of late years generally recognized that it cannot naturally occupy such a place, and it has consequently been detached from its old association, but no position for it has been adopted with unanimity. It is placed by Leconte and Horn, in the 'Classification of the Coleoptera of North America' (second edition, 1883), between the Chrysomelidæ and Tenebrionidæ. It would, however, be certainly more naturally placed if it were made to precede, instead of follow, the Chrysomelidæ (or Phytophaga), and in the present work it occupies such a position. It may be well to mention that though, as a matter of convenience, it is included in the same volume as the Longicornia, it is not to be inferred from this fact that there is any special affinity between the two aggregates.

Our knowledge of the Bruchides is not sufficiently advanced to enable any trustworthy generalizations to be made in reference to the species found in our region. Still certain figures may possess some interest. Only two or three genera are yet recognized in the family, and each of these has a very wide distribution. The total number of species described before this work was commenced was about 570. The number of recognized North-American species is about 50. The number here recorded as found in our region is 150, but of this number eighteen have not been seen by the writer and are more or less doubtful.

The members of this family have been unequally collected in different parts of our region: Mr. Champion secured many species in Guatemala and in the State of Panama, and the Mexican fauna is pretty well represented by the collections acquired from M. Sallé and Herr Höge; but, on the other hand, the Nicaraguan province is poorly represented, and from Costa Rica we have received scarcely any Bruchides. The South-American Bruchides are very inadequately known, so that little can be said as to the geographical distribution of these insects. I may, however, remark that I am acquainted with 51 Mexican species; that of this number seven occur also in the United States of North America, twenty-three† are found in Guatemala as well as in Mexico, and eight extend at least as far south as the State of Panama. It would thus appear that the Central-American region has but little in common with the United States of North America, for at present there is actually a greater community between

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† In this computation the cosmopolitan species are not included.