

Subfam. *DACNIDES*.

This subfamily together with the Encaustides (which are not represented in the New World) and the Triplacides form Lacordaire's first tribe "Erotylini engidiformes." In this volume I adopt the secondary divisions alone as subfamilies without entering into the question of a general classification, for which more mature study and the comparison of the characters of a large number of genera (many of quite recent introduction) would be needed. The first of this tribe—the Encaustides—are characterized by having the inner lobe of the maxillæ armed with one hook or "spine" at the tip; it comprises species which are all of large size, and is confined to the eastern tropical or subtropical regions. The Triplacides agree with the Dacnides in having the inner lobe of the maxillæ unarmed; but are separated from them very concisely by the shape of the apical joint of the maxillary palpi, this joint in the Dacnides being conical or oval, or at most feebly securiform, while in the Triplacides it is enormously widened, the width being often greater than the whole length of the maxilla.

In our region the subfamily Dacnides is represented by the genus *Megalodacne* alone. The small species of the genus *Dacne* are found in the temperate zones both north and south, predominating greatly in the former. *Episcapha*, *Triplatoma*, *Coptengis*, and some other genera are, like the Encaustides, eastern-tropical species; while some genera which have been associated with them by Chapuis in his "Group I. Engidites" are inhabitants of such distant regions as Australia and the island of Madeira. It will be observed, however, that Chapuis includes in the group genera with feet "pentamerous" and "subpentamerous" (the character upon which Lacordaire separated his equivalent divisions); and adopts a new character, viz. the relative length of the basal joint of the maxillary palpi, for the separation of the Triplacides.

For a true classification it is evident we shall have to rely on more general considerations than these, to which we are forced to admit many exceptions.

MEGALODACNE.

Megalodacne, Crotch, Cist. Ent. i. p. 141 (1873), and p. 415 (1876); Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. 1873, p. 352.

Dacne, Lacordaire, Monogr. Erotyl. p. 63 (1842).

This genus has representatives both in the New and Old Worlds, being, however, in both nearly confined to the tropics. In North America and in Japan one or two species extend as far north as lat. 40°.

The close resemblance of species from such distant localities as South America and the west coast of Africa is a very remarkable fact.

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