

SPHEX.

Spheg, Fabricius, Ent. Syst. ii. p. 198 (1793) (partim); Patton, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. xx. p. 382.

Chlorion, Latreille, Hist. Nat. Crust. et Ins. iv. p. 57 (1809) (partim); Patton, loc. cit. p. 379.

Pronæus, Latreille, loc. cit. iv. p. 56 (1809); W. Saunders, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. iii. p. 58 (1841).

Priononyx, Dahlbom, Hymen. Eur. i. p. 28 (1843); Patton, loc. cit. p. 384.

Harpactopus, F. Smith, Cat. Hymen. Ins. iv. p. 264 (1856).

Isodontia, Patton, loc. cit. p. 380 (1881).

Spheg, as here defined, includes *Chlorion*, *Isodontia*, *Spheg* (sensu stricto, auct.), *Harpactopus*, and *Priononyx*. The characters on which these genera are grounded merge so gradually into each other that they do not furnish a rigid means of definition; and, moreover, if these names be accepted as valid, it would inevitably necessitate the creation of other genera. Under these circumstances I quite agree with Kohl and André in sinking *Isodontia*, *Chlorion*, *Harpactopus*, and *Priononyx* to sectional value. The genus is of almost world-wide distribution; and the species, so far as is known, prey on Orthoptera.

i. *Tarsal claws unidentate.* (Chlorion and Pronæus.)

This section is representative of the Oriental region and of America. The species are large and metallic blue or green or violet. The tarsal claws are unidentate; the clypeus has three teeth in the female and five in the male; and the petiole is somewhat longer than the hind coxæ. The species are few in number. Cresson treats *Chlorion* as a distinct genus.

1. *Spheg cærulea*.

Spheg cærulea, Drury, Exot. Ins. ii. p. 75, t. 39. f. 8.

Chlorion cæruleum, Smith, Cat. Hymen. Ins. iv. p. 238¹; Riley, 1st Report U. S. Ent. Comm. p. 319, fig. 58 (1878)².

Chlorion cyaneum, Dahlbom, Hymen. Eur. i. p. 24.

Hab. NORTH AMERICA^{1 2}.—MEXICO¹.

S. cærulea feeds on spiders and also on locusts. Riley² states that one of his assistants, Mr. A. N. Godfrey, saw one sting a pupa of the Rocky-Mountain locust (*Caloptenus spretus*), bury it in its nest, and lay an egg at the point of junction between the hind femur and the body.