

rendered darker by microscopic black pile; denuded, and therefore less coloured, spots in the middle on the front as well as on the hind side of the tibiæ (perhaps a sexual character); tarsi brown, the first joint of the four hind ones white, the tip brown. Halteres with a greenish knob. Wings: the interval between the third vein and the costa yellowish-brown; a cloud of the same colour crosses the extreme proximal end of the first basal cell, and fills out the discal; the costal cell (between the auxiliary and the costa) is subhyaline, but the space between the auxiliary and first vein is brownish; the distal half of the first and second posterior cells has a pale brownish-grey tinge, which is prolonged towards the anal angle along the posterior margin, filling out nearly the whole third and fourth posterior cells; the fifth vein is clouded with brown on its proximal portion; the triangular cell between the root of the wing and the basal cells is pure hyaline. A single male.

HERMETIA.

Hermetia, Latreille, in Dict. d'Hist. nat. Déterville, xxiv. (1804).

This genus includes a great variety of types, differing considerably in the general shape of the body, as well as in the structural details; it would be useless and confusing, however, to introduce new genera for them.

My material not being sufficient for a monographic treatment of these interesting forms, I will merely draw attention to the coloration of the eyes, which, in this genus, shows a variation corresponding in a measure to the diversity in outward shape of the different species. I have revivified on wet sand the eyes of the eight American species before me, and have found three different types of coloration as follows:—

1. Eyes green, with numerous purple transverse lines and dots, sometimes connected, and forming a design in zigzag: *Hermetia illucens*, *H. coarctata*, *H. crabro*, *H. aurata*, *H. comstocki*.
2. Eyes unicolorous: *Hermetia formica*, *H. pterocausta*.
3. Eyes green, with three large purple spots: *Hermetia relictæ*.

Besides North and South America, especially in their warmer regions, there is, so far as I know, only one other region where the true *Hermetiæ* have been found, and that is the Austro-Malayan Archipelago. *Hermetia* (*Massycita*) *cerioides*, Walker, which occurs there, has the eyes very like *H. illucens*; a double zigzag purplish design on blue ground. In the Berlin Museum I have seen a *Hermetia* from Northern Australia which is very like *H. illucens* in its colouring.

The eight American *Hermetiæ* mentioned below may be tabulated as follows:—

Eyes pubescent.

Abdomen with a dense, conspicuous golden tomentum.

Femora black 1. *aurata*, Bell.

Femora red 2. *comstocki*, Willist.

Abdomen without such tomentum 3. *crabro*, sp. n.