

Fam. BOMBYLIDÆ.

The materials I had at my disposal in working up this family consisted principally of a fine series of mostly well-preserved 'Anthracina' from Northern Sonora, collected by Mr. Morrison. I have improved this rather rare opportunity for describing and figuring a number of new species. Professor Bellardi very kindly lent me the 'Anthracina' of his Mexican collection, the descriptions of which I incorporated in my work. The materials from other parts of Central America were comparatively of less importance.

The section "Bombylina" was very little represented in all these collections.

I have attempted to give a closer definition of some of the existing genera, and have for this purpose introduced characters that had not been used before.

A great deal remains to be done towards developing the classification of the Bombylidæ; but this is the work of the monographer, and requires a larger material than I have at hand. The mere describer of a limited collection, who attempts at the same time to improve the classification, is like the traveller who has his own road to make—his progress will be very slow, and his road very bad.

The following table refers to North- and Central-American genera and species only:—

Analytical Table of the North- and Central-American Genera of Bombylina^{dae}.

- 1 (18). The bifurcation of the second and third veins taking place opposite, or nearly opposite, the small cross-vein; the second vein forming a knee at its origin from the præfurca; the third vein in a straight line with the præfurca.
- 2 (11). Three or more submarginal cells.
- 3 (4). Four, sometimes five, submarginal cells *Hyperalonia*, Rond.
- 4 (3). Only three submarginal cells.
- 5 (8). Third joint of the antennæ elongate-conical.
- 6 (7). The conical third joint bearing a more or less long style, separated by a distinct suture *Exoprosopa*, Macq.
- 7 (6). The conical third joint bearing no elongate style at the end; second vein strongly contorted, in the shape of a recumbent S *Dipalta*, O. S.
- 8 (5). Third joint of the antennæ short, onion-shaped, with a very long style, not bisected by a suture.
- 9 (10). Proboscis long, projecting far beyond the oral margin . . . *Stonyx*, O. S.
- 10 (9). Proboscis withdrawn within the oral cavity; rudimentary pulvilli *Isopenthes*, O. S. 710
- 11 (2). Two submarginal cells.
- 12 (13). The style of the third antennal joint distinctly bisected by a suture, and bearing a pencil of hairs at the tip *Argyramæba*, Schin.