

# Fam. PHYMATIDÆ.

Herr A. Handlirsch's Monograph of this family is now in the press. He has examined specimens of all the Central-American species represented in our collection, and I have endeavoured to follow him wherever possible, the references to his work being taken from proof-sheets kindly forwarded. Two genera only are certainly represented within our limits, *Phymata* and *Macrocephalus*; a third, *Agreuocoris*, is recorded by Herr Handlirsch as from "Mexico," but, as he says, the insect is probably of eastern origin. One *Phymata* and seven *Macrocephali* are here described as new, the whole of these being unknown to him.

The more important synonymy only of the Central-American species is mentioned below, it being given at length by Herr Handlirsch.

These insects, as noted by Prof. Uhler and other writers regarding *Phymata erosa*, L. (= *fasciata*, Gray), bury themselves in the pollen of various flowers, and are thus easily enabled, by means of their raptorial front legs, to catch the small insects that come within reach, their habits being similar in this respect to those of many Mantidæ. They have been noticed to attack small Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, and Lepidoptera, as well as the larvæ of Tenthredinidæ, Aphides, &c.

## PHYMATA.

*Phymata*, Latreille, Hist. Nat. Crust. et Ins. iii. p. 247 (1802); Laporte, Essai Class. Syst. Hémipt., in Guérin's Mag. Zool. 1832, p. 14; Westwood, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. iii. p. 21 (1843); Stål, Enum. Hemipt. v. pp. 131, 132 (1876); Handlirsch, Ann. k. k. naturhist. Hofmus. xii. p. 144 (1898).

*Syrtis*, Fabricius, Syst. Rhyng. p. 121 (1803) (part.).

*Discomerus*, Laporte, loc. cit. p. 14.

I follow Herr Handlirsch in placing most of the Central-American *Phymatæ* under one variable, abundant, widely distributed species, *P. erosa* (Linn.) (*fasciata*, Gray). The five other Central-American members of the genus appear to be much less variable; they are all comparatively rare, one only of them, *P. acutangula*, Guér., having been found in any numbers. Our species may be separated thus:—

- a. Abdomen angularly or acutely dilated at the sides; head short or moderately long.
  - a'. Pronotum constricted at the sides between the anterior and posterior lobes, with the lobes also more or less emarginate; legs not annulate . . . *erosa*, L.
  - b'. Pronotum strongly, subequally trisinuate at the sides; legs annulate . . . *handlirschi*, n. sp.
- b. Abdomen strongly and acutely dilated at the sides; lateral angles of the pronotum acute; head long . . . . . *acutangula*, Guér.
- c. Abdomen broadly and abruptly dilated at the sides; head moderately long; legs annulate.