

Fam. FLATIDÆ*.

The Flatidæ are here regarded as a separate family, and as including three subfamilies, the Acanaloniinæ, Flatinæ, and Ricaniinæ; these subfamilies are by some authors regarded as distinct families, whereas others treat the Flatidæ as merely a subfamily of the Fulgoridæ. Strictly speaking, the Cixiidæ† would seem naturally to follow immediately after the Fulgoridæ, through *Dictyophara*; but, on the other hand, they form a very natural transition to the Delphacidæ (*Copicerus* &c.), and as, for convenience' sake, I prefer to leave the latter to the end of the volume, I have departed from the order observed by several authors, and placed the Flatidæ immediately after the Fulgoridæ, to which many of them bear a sort of relation through their large size and conspicuous coloration. The Derbidæ form an abnormal group, of somewhat uncertain position, related to the Fulgoridæ, Issidæ, Flatidæ, and Delphacidæ. The Issidæ might naturally follow the Flatidæ; in fact, certain species of the former family appear to differ from some of the Ricaniinæ in little else besides the form of the scutellum and the non-carinate sides of the clypeus; and the transition from certain Issidæ to the Cixiidæ is not very abrupt.

The Flatidæ, as above stated, may be divided into the following subfamilies:—

- I. Tegmina without parallel nervures along the outer border, and with the ordinary venation, which is usually more or less reticulate, continued to the margins ANACALONIINÆ.
- II. Tegmina furnished with more or less distinct parallel transverse nervures along the outer border.
 - 1. Clavus more or less indistinct and blunt, or confused with the corium at the apex; vertex not separated from the frons by a sharp and distinct raised transverse keel ‡ FLATINÆ.
 - 2. Clavus always distinct and sharp at the apex; vertex separated from the frons by a distinct transverse raised keel RICANIINÆ.

Subfam. ACANALONIINÆ.

This subfamily includes a considerable number of species, with the tegmina ample and as a rule more or less semicircular, without transverse nervures on the costal margin. Their colour is usually a vivid green, which often fades to brownish-yellow in dried specimens. The original type of the genus *Acanalonia* (*A. servillei*, Spin.) has the

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† The composition of this family is very uncertain and will be alluded to later on.

‡ In some of the species of Flatinæ in which the head is not produced there is a more or less evident raised line between the vertex and the frons but this is easily distinguished from the sharp raised keel of the Ricaniinæ.