

different limits to those adopted by European writers at that time (1861), and constituted it of the three following sub-families, which are here more fully defined :

Middle coxæ distant, epipleuræ wanting—LYCIDÆ.

Middle coxæ contiguous, epipleuræ usually wide at base, episterna of metathorax with inner margin sinuate—LAMPYRIDÆ.

Middle coxæ contiguous, epipleuræ narrow at base, episterna of metathorax not sinuate on inner margin—TELEPHORIDÆ.

A detail of the minor groups and tribes composing these families would be here out of place, and may be found in my Classification ; they will be fully exposed in a synopsis of the genera and species now ready for press. Otherwise, the habits and life history of a few species have been more or less thoroughly observed and recorded.

For the past few years I have been trying to procure material to enable me to make a more complete synopsis of the genera and species, and a better exposition of their relations to each other than I had been able previously to give.*

For furnishing series of larvæ, pupæ and imagines of species from her vicinity, I am under especial obligations to Mrs. V. O. King, of Austin, Texas. An excellent account of the transformations of *Plectonmus pallens* from her pen has been printed in *Psyche* iii., 51 (1880), and equally valuable life-histories of other species may be expected in the future.

I congratulate myself, that by the slow progress of my studies and the tardy manner in which some of my correspondents have replied to my request for larger series of specimens, I am now able to profit by the recent publications of Mr. C. O. Waterhouse† on Lycidæ, and Rev. H. S. Gorham‡ on Lampyridæ.

The object of the present essay is simply to give some popular information in regard to the characters of these insects, and to correlate, so far as our species may permit, the light-giving faculty with other structures ; I will, therefore, not enter here into a close analysis of the relations of the genera.

* I would here mention that no reference is made in the text to the important general work of Lacordaire, or the excellent faunal European work of DuVal, in which the genera have been tabulated in a convenient manner, but without special reference to our species, except what has been derived from my own works cited above.

* Br. Mus. Cat. Illustrations; Coleoptera, Part I, Lycidæ, 1879.

‡ Trans. Ent. Soc. London, 1880, p. 1, 63, 83, and Proc. loc. cit. infra.