

THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

VOL. XV.

OTTAWA, JANUARY, 1902.

No. 10.

FAUNA OTTAWAENSIS.

HYMENOPTERA—Superfamily II.—SPHEGOIDEA.

By W. HAGUE HARRINGTON, F.R.S.C., Ottawa.

The proceedings of our society have recently made little reference to the local insect fauna, but it seems important that this branch of our natural history should not be altogether neglected. Abundant material exists in our cabinets, but unfortunately records have to be fragmentary, as so many forms are still undetermined or imperfectly classified. Last winter a start was made toward a rearrangement of my hymenoptera according to the admirable scheme of classification published by Ashmead, but the work has progressed slowly. Under his system the very extensive order of the hymenoptera is divided into ten easily recognized superfamilies as follows:—Apoidea, Sphegoidea, Vespoidea, Formicoidea, Proctotrypoidea, Cynipoidea, Chalcidoidea, Ichneumonoidea, Siricoidea, and Tenthredinoidea, which are subdivided into ninety-four families and many hundred genera. It would be preferable to commence with the Apoidea and to publish the superfamilies in consecutive order, but this is rendered impossible by the difficulty of determining the numerous bees belonging to such groups as *Halictus*, *Andrena*, *Osmia* and *Megachile*, and the superfamily Sphegoidea has been selected as a commencement. The species included therein are commonly known as solitary, or fossorial wasps, because they do not form communities as do some of the Vespoidea and because they usually construct their egg-cells in burrows in the earth or in dead wood. The cells thus formed are stored by the industrious wasps with provisions for their prospective young. This food supply does not consist of pollen and honey, as stored by the bees, but of