

crevices, some forming cells in the hollow, or excavated stems of plants in which only the partitions are of mud, and others making their nests in burrows in the ground. Like *Eumenes* they provision their cells with caterpillars, but much yet remains to be learned regarding the habits of our species.

The Chrysididæ are parasitic insects nourished in the cells of various bees and wasps. The female Chrysid watches for a chance to deposit her egg in a nest which is being stored by her unwilling host, and the resulting larva either devours that of the host or starves it by using up the food supply. From their parasitic habits they are known as "cuckoo bees" or, more properly, "cuckoo wasps," and from their brilliant colours are also called "ruby-flies." Our species are all small insects, seldom over one quarter of an inch long, of a deep metallic blue colour, varied with red, purple or green tints. The abdomen has fewer visible segments than in the other wasps, and is excavated beneath so that the wasp can roll itself into a ball, when attacked by the insect whose nest it invades, and be quite safe against injury. They are exceedingly active insects, and are often seen exploring the trunks of trees, the crevices of rocks, or the surface of the ground for the nest of the species which they infest.

The Bethyloidæ are small ant-like insects which were formerly classed as subfamilies of the Proctotrypidæ, but which are now considered as more closely allied to the wasps, and have been placed as one of the families of the Vespoidea. The members of the subfamily Bethyloidæ are parasitic upon coleopterous and lepidopterous larvæ, while those of the Dryininæ feed upon immature Homoptera, chiefly fulgorids, membracids and jassids. In both subfamilies the females are frequently wingless, and the females of the Dryininæ have curious chelate anterior tarsi, probably to enable them to cling to the insects on which their eggs are placed.

The Tiphidæ are represented by only two species of rather large shortlegged black wasps which belong to the genus *Tiphia*. The members of the family, which was formerly included in the Scoliidæ, are parasitic upon the larvæ of ground-inhabiting beetles.

The few remaining species of our Vespoidea belong to the families Thynnidæ, Myrmosidæ and Mutillidæ; the first two families being considered by many authors as only subfamilies of Mutillidæ. These groups are very poorly represented in our fauna and the few species which do occur are usually rare. The females are all wingless and resemble ants in general appearance, but the males are winged and differ much in form from the females, and are black while the females may be variegated in colour. These