

(Linn.). My genus *Hydrometra* is easily distinguishable from *Gerris* in the following characters: Head drawn out into a long, cylindrical snout, recurvant and in a longitudinal groove the beak. These insects have the body very narrow, slender and linear, the head very long and slender, carrying at the extremity of the elongate snout two setaceous four-jointed antennæ. The eyes are large and globular and are situated near the middle of the snout; Linnaeus mistook them for tubercles. The thorax is long and cylindrical, the tegmina are very short and narrow and lie on the back, not occupying more than the interval between the second and third pairs of legs. The abdomen is very long and slightly larger than the anterior portion of the body; it is cylindrical and has two longitudinal keels, one on each side of the border. The legs are very thin and long, the middle pair being nearer the anterior pair than to the posterior. *Hydrometra* loves aquatic places, and runs with some agility on the surface of the water, but not very rapidly. It is this habit that gives them their name *Hydrometra* (water measurer)." When Latreille first established this genus it contained but two species, one from Europe, *H. stagnorum*, and another from the West Indies, the first serving as the type.

Cimex stagnorum (Linn.), Latreille's type, was placed by Linnaeus, who described it, in his heterogeneous genus *Cimex*, which included many widely different Hemiptera. Later naturalists in dividing up this genus placed *H. stagnorum* in various genera, such as *Gerris* and *Emesa*, until it was rescued by Latreille and placed in a genus by itself, which its unique characters well merited. Later, Burmeister,* setting aside Latreille's work, proposed the generic name *Limnobates* for this insect, and this name is frequently to be met with in comparatively recent books.

The United States, like Europe, has up to the present but a single species, and this (*H. lineata*) was first described by Thomas Say.† I quote the following: "*H. lineata*. Fuscous; hemelytra dull whitish with black nervures. Inhabits United States. Body fuscous or brown, more or less deep; hemelytra dull whitish or dusky, with black nervures; tergum pale, quadrilineate with black; two of the lines on the edge and the interval between the two inner lines, dull whitish or bright yellow; the incisures of the segments more or less black; beneath and feet obscure

* "Handbuch der Entomologie" (1839), Vol. II., No. 1, p. 210.

† The complete writings of Thomas Say on the Entomology of North America (Leconte's Edition), Vol. I., p. 361.