

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XIV.

LONDON, ONT., MAY, 1882.

No. 5

ENTOMOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS.

“LONG-STINGS.”

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Among the conspicuous insects which attract the attention of even non-entomologists, there are few more interesting in their structure and habits, as well as in their relations to other groups, than the large “long-sting” ichneumons with their long triple “tails.” Our two largest species belong to the genus *Rhyssa* (of the Hymenoptera), and as, so far as I am aware, no accounts of them have yet been published in the *ENTOMOLOGIST*, a brief description of their appearance and habits may not be undesirable.

They may be easily distinguished from their relatives (often their victims), the “horn-tails”—*Uroceridæ*—as they are much more slender in body and appendages. The female, readily determined by the extraordinary development of the ovipositor, has the abdomen stouter than that of the male, with the posterior segments dilated and curved under, and bearing the ovipositor, which is constructed essentially of the same parts as is that of a “horn-tail,” only that they are greatly lengthened.

The head, in shape like a short segment of a cylinder, slightly convex before and concave behind, bears on its rounded front a pair of large eyes, from between which spring the long slender antennæ. The head is joined by a small neck to the thorax, which is strongly built and supports two pairs of long narrow wings, as well as the six very long and slim, yet strong, legs. The segment of the abdomen which adjoins the thorax is much less in diameter than the succeeding ones.

The male has a long cylindrical abdomen tapering gradually to the extremity. This, in connection with the prominent head and narrow wings, gives him, especially when in flight, a considerable resemblance to a dragon-fly, from which, however, he is at once distinguished by his long antennæ and shorter hinder wings.