

## BOOK NOTICE.

“Kritisches Verzeichniss der Myrmekophilen und Termitophilen Arthropoden mit Angabe der Lebensweise und mit Beschreibung neuer Arten. Von E. Wasmann, S. J., Berlin, Felix L. Dames, 1894.”

Under the above title, Dr. Wasmann has given us the greatest contribution to this interesting subject ever made, and one that must become a classic in Entomology. The work is published in the form of an octavo brochure of some 248 pages, and is gotten up in a fine style of the printer's art.

A few pages of introduction preface the main body of the work, giving a short history of the study of myrmecophiles and termitophiles, and stating the difficulties arising in the study of the matter and lying in the way of the preparation of such a Catalogue as the present. The number of accidental or transient visitors to the nests of ants and termites is very large, and has formed a considerable proportion of several previous lists, but the Doctor has eliminated this element from his paper so far as possible. This introduction is followed by a tabular statement of the number of myrmecophilous and termitophilous arthropoda mentioned in the body of the work, from which we make the following extracts:—

The entire number of myrmecophilous insects reaches 1,177 species, of which 993 are Coleoptera, under which the family Staphylinidæ is best represented with 263 species; the Paussidæ (none of which are North American) follow next with 169, then the Histeridæ with 128, the Pselaphidæ (*s.s.*) with 113, and the Clavigeridæ with 89. Several others hold from 15 to 40 species each of myrmecophilous habit, and in all 30 families are enumerated in this order. The Paussidæ and Clavigeridæ are, so far as known, almost exclusively myrmecophilous.

The Strepsiptera are represented by a single species of myrmecolax (*M. nietneri*, Westw.), which occurs in the hind body of ants in Ceylon. The Hymenoptera are found in 39 cases, of which 22 are other ants, and 14 belong to the parasitic families Braconidæ, Chalcididæ and Proctotrupidæ. There are 26 species of Lepidoptera, 18 Diptera, 7 Orthoptera, 1 Pseudoneuropter, 72 Rhynchota and 20 Thysanura. The Myriapoda are doubtful or more likely inimical and accidental. There are also 26 myrmecophilous spiders, 34 Acarina and 9 Isopodous Crustacea.

So much for myrmecophiles. The termites do not support such a large list of species, as 105 kinds of insects only are here recognized as