

metallic golden-green, flies, which appear, as Verrall said, "to be standing on tiptoe," being raised on their front legs. Their wing venation is very characteristic. The most remarkable thing about the family, however, is the sexual dimorphism of the male, which reaches a higher degree of development in this family than in any of the other family of the Diptera. These secondary sexual characters occur primarily on the legs, but they are also found on wings, antennæ and facial region. Associated, as is usually the case, with these secondary sexual characters in the male Dolichopodids are remarkable "courting" habits, which not infrequently strongly recall the analogous amatory preliminaries on higher animals. The flies are all predaceous, feeding on other insects and small invertebrates, and are usually found on bushes, on low herbage and grass in woods and outside, generally in damp localities and more or less near water. In North America we have little information as to their life-histories; the larvæ occur in earth rich in vegetation and under the bark of trees. The species are distributed all over the world, two species of *Dolichopus* being found in Greenland. From North America about 526 species are known, from the palæarctic region about 586 species are known, and ten species are recorded as common to both regions.

Aldrich divides the family in North America into twelve subfamilies, and although the former worker has given no diagnoses, the author of the present work believes them to be good and natural. As he has only examined the Danish species closely, he follows the arrangement of the "Katalog der Paläarktischen Diptera," and divides the family into four subfamilies, at the same time admitting the heterogeneous nature of some of them.

As in the previous parts of this excellent work, the author treats each species fully; where they are known, larval characteristics and habits are given, and the presence of one hundred and thirty figures, chiefly of the antennæ and wings, enhances the value of this further and most welcome addition to our dipterological literature. We look forward to the succeeding parts of this monumental work, in the preparation of which the author has our good wishes.

C. G. H.

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