

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XXXI.

LONDON, JULY, 1899.

No. 7.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE ENTOMOPHILOUS WASPS, OR THE SUPERFAMILY SPHEGOIDEA.

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(Paper No. 2.)

FAMILY XV.—Oxybelidæ.

Unquestionably, this group is closely related to the *Crabronidæ*, where most authorities have placed it; but, to me, the quite different shaped head, the absence of the basal abscissa of the cubitus in the front wings, and the remarkable formation of the scutellum and postscutellum, characters not found in any other group, seem to justify one in separating it from the *Crabronidæ* and treating it as a distinct family.

The group was first recognized as a subfamily in 1874, by C. G. Thomson, in his *Skandinaviens Hymenoptera*, Vol. III., p. 256.

The species prey upon small flies (Diptera), which they store up in their burrows made in loose sandy soil.

The known genera are not numerous, and may be recognized with the aid of the following table:

Table of Genera.

Mandibles beneath *not* emarginate, rarely with an indistinct median incision; submedian cell as long or very nearly as long as the median, the transverse median nervure interstitial, or nearly, with the basal nervure, or at most uniting with the median vein not much before its origin. 2.

Mandibles distinctly emarginate beneath; submedian cell very much shorter than the median, the transverse median nervure uniting with the median vein much before the origin of the basal nervure.

Pygidium triangular with a distinct pygidial area, the hypopygidium very narrow. (1) *Oxybelomorpha*, Brauns.