

FAMILY CHARACTERS AND SYNOPSES OF GENERA.

NOTACANTHA.

Empodia developed pulvilliform. pulvilli present. Without distinct bristles. Basal cells of wings large. Third joint of antennæ segmented or annulated. Tegulæ small or rudimentary. Proboscis not adapted for piercing. Males holoptic or dichoptic.

1. Tibiæ wholly without spurs; veins usually crowded anteriorly.

STRATIOMYIDÆ

Tibiæ more or less spurred; the costal vein encompasses the whole wing; two sub-marginal and five posterior cells always present. 2

2. All the tibiæ with spurs. 3
Front tibiæ without spurs. 4

3. Third joint of antennæ not acute at tip, or, if so, the scutellum with spines on its border. XYLOPHAGIDÆ
Third joint acute; palpi cylindrical; scutellum without spines.

ARTHROPEAS

4. Fourth posterior cell closed. SUBULA
Fourth posterior cell open. (Leptidæ.) 5

5. Face projecting on each side into a rounded conical protuberance, thickly covered with hair. GLUTOPS
Face with two deep, diverging furrows, running from the base of the antennæ to the oral margin. ARTHROCERAS

XYLOPHAGIDÆ.

Species of moderate or large size, more or less elongated, thinly pilose, or nearly bare. Ocelli present. Antennæ elongate, third joint annulated or segmented, never with a differentiated style or bristle. Veins of the wings distinct, not crowded anteriorly, third longitudinal vein furcate; five posterior cells. Abdomen with seven or eight visible segments. All the tibiæ with spurs at the tip.

The flies are usually found about trees, where they feed upon the sap, or about decaying logs, and are often mistaken for ichneumonids.