In the first of these divisions the Cicadæ or Harvest flies find their appropriate place —in fact the first section of Westwood's arrangement corresponds with Linnè's genus Cicada, or Latreille's family Cicadaires. The name of the Cicadæ is supposed by some to be a hybrid word derived from the Latin *Ciccum* = a thin skin, and the Greek ᾄδειν = to please, in reference to its song; others derive its name from the Latin words *Cito Cadat*, implying that the perfect insects are short-lived. The Cicadidæ are the largest insects in the sub-order. In Westwood's Arcana Entomologica, Pl. 51, there is a figure of a gigantic species (*Cicada Imperatoria*, Westwood) which measures eight inches and a quarter between the tips of the outstretched wings, and in my own collection I have a very beautiful Indian species which measures six inches. This latter belongs to a group of the Cicadidæ, in which the wings are opaque and more or less coriaceous; the upper wings are of a dull, reddish black, with the veins of a slightly lighter shade, and across the middle of them there is a broad white band three-sixteenths of an inch wide; the rest of the upper surface is black, with the exception of a bright orange band across the prothorax. The eyes and the abdomen are a rich brown and the underwings a deep velvety black.

The Cicadidæ have the head short and broad with two large prominent eyes and three ocelli placed in a triangle between them; usually the wings are completely membranous, of a uniform consistence and delicately transparent, with few but distinct nerves. There are, however, a few exceptions to this rule, as in the Indian genus Polyneura, where the apical division of the wings is very thickly reticulated; and in a small group of the Cicadæ where the hemelytra are wholly, or in part, of a coriaceous nature. The abdomen is short and pointed, and the legs are short, the anterior femora are much thickened and toothed beneath. The ovipositor of the female is a very interesting object. This organ, which is the instrument with which the female places her eggs in a safe and proper asylum to wait until they are hatched, is lodged in a sheath which lies in a groove of the last ring of the abdomen. It is of equal thickness throughout, except at the tip, where it is slightly enlarged and angular. On each side it bears a set of nineteen sharp teeth, very fine at the point, and from that gradually increasing in size. The sheath is composed of two horny pieces, slightly curved, and ending in the form of a long spoon, so that the concave or hollow part may receive the convex or rounded part of the ovipositor. On examining this auger, for such it really is, under the microscope, it will be found to be three pieces most beautifully fitted together—two outer ones which have an alternate and separate motion, and on the outside edges of which the rows of teeth before mentioned are situated, and another fixed single piece, in between the other two, at the back, to which they act as a sheath, but which in turn supports and keeps them in their proper place by means of two internally-dilated lateral grooves, which receive the dilated edges of the serrated pieces, and in which these slip up and down. This last supporting dorsal-piece has a deep groove down its centre, and it is thought to consist of two separate pieces firmly soldered together, but which have not the slightest motion independent of each other. This instrument is composed of a hard horny substance called chitine, the same as are the stings of bees and wasps, and the ovipositors of Ichneumon flies. The auger of the Cicada then consists of two sharp saws which work alternately, and a central supporting dorsal-piece which holds them in their place and strengthens them. This instrument somewhat resembles the saw of the saw-flies, but as it has slightly different work to perform it bears corresponding modifications. It would, however, be impossible to conceive anything more exactly fitted for their required uses than these beautiful organs are.

The most peculiar characteristic of this family however consists in the structure of the musical instrument with which the males make the trilling sound for which they have been famous since ancient times. These organs are internal, and consist of two stretched membranes which are acted upon by two strong muscles, and the sound issues from two holes beneath two special expansions of the metasternum, which both cover up and protect these tympana or sound organs, and also act as sounding boards. The song varies much in the different species, and it would appear that the voice of the European one must have a much more grateful tone than that of his American cousin which we know, for we read in Kirby and Spence that the song of the Cicada has been a favourite theme in the verses