

Order Hymenoptera.

been divided into many families and subfamilies. Mr. W. H. Ashmead of the United States National Museum, whose great work on this order has placed him at the head of all living authorities on the Hymenoptera, has recently given us as the result of his prolonged studies an arrangement of this enormous complex of forms into ten super-families, and for the sake of simplicity our consideration of the order will follow his classification at the risk of some slight temporary confusion in the minds of those familiar with other general works on insects. The correspondence between physical structure and habits and mode of life, however, is so marked in the Hymenoptera, that these structural super-families are really habit super-families as well.

Economically considered the Hymenoptera as a whole is a beneficial group in its relation to man. Aside from the money industry dependent upon the honey bee, thousands of the parasitic forms destroy noxious insects, very many forms are of the utmost importance as cross fertilizers of trees and plants, and certain galls have a distinct value in commerce.

In the different aspects of the study of this great group there is room for a small army of workers.

TABLE OF SUBORDERS AND SUPER-FAMILIES.

Suborder HETEROPHAGA, ASHMEAD. Abdomen much narrowed at its attachment to the thorax. Larvæ legless.

Suborder PHYTOPHAGA, LATREILLE. Abdomen broad at its attachment to the thorax. Larvæ with legs.

Heterophaga.

Underside of last segment of the abdomen not divided longitudinally; the sting or ovipositor, when present, always issuing from the tip of the abdomen..... 1

Underside of last segment of the abdomen divided; ovipositor issuing some distance before the tip of abdomen; trochanters always two-jointed..... 5

1—Pronotum not extending back to the tegulæ..... 2

Pronotum extending back to tegulæ, or the latter are absent. 3