

a large proportion of the insects now recognized, and to erect a considerable number of genera for their reception. The labour involved in the critical examinations requisite for the determination and description of so many microscopic forms, and in the preparation of the voluminous text, must have been enormous, yet the author has been able to amplify and embellish his work by the delineation of some one hundred and fifty exquisite figures.

The position of the Proctotrypidæ in the order Hymenoptera is considered to be much more closely allied to some families of the Aculeata than to the Chalcididæ, with which they have been usually grouped, while they also approach in other respects the parasitic Cynipidæ. The Mymarinae, hitherto included as a sub-family, are set aside as constituting a distinct family allied to the Chalcididæ, so that the species now contained in the Proctotrypidæ are characterized, and distinguished from the Chalcids, by the pronotum extending back to the tegulæ, and the ovipositor issuing from the tip of the abdomen. Ten sub-families are recognized, which contain about one hundred and thirty genera, represented by nearly six hundred species—a doubling of the genera and quadrupling of the species as enumerated in the catalogue of Hymenoptera issued a few years ago by Mr. Cresson. Many of the genera are known only by single species, but others contain numerous forms, the most extensive being *Polygnotus* (32), *Proctotrypes* (21), *Prosacantha* (27) and *Telenomus* (32). The synoptic tables requisite for the separation of the species in such genera, as well as the tables for the distinction of genera, etc., give evidence of great care and skill in their preparation and arrangement.

While many of the genera are apparently confined to the more southerly and westerly regions, the species in other groups have an extended range, which at times seems to be almost continental, as for instance *Proctotrypes californicus*, which has been taken at Ottawa. The members of this family have received but scanty attention in Canada, so that their distribution northward cannot be stated, but undoubtedly many interesting species could be found by a careful and patient collector in any locality. Provancher, in his *Faune Entomologique*, was able only to announce the occurrence of *nine* species, and about twice as many are recorded in his *Additions* completed just before his death. Mr. Ashmead, however, has been able to enlarge the list of Canadian species to about ninety. With the exception of three forms from Vancouver Island, the