

curved posteriorly, or following, to a great extent, the contour of the hind margin of the eye, and which plainly do not reach the hind margin; and those which, although diverging posteriorly, are straight or convergently curved, and meet the hind margin or approach it exceedingly closely.

Carination of head. In these we have the most unsatisfactory taxonomic characters, for in so many species they are obscured at the junction of vertex and face, and there is considerable variation in such characters as the furcation of the median frontal carinae. In Homoptera such variation is common in all characters which undergo a great alteration at the last ecdysis*. In all nymphs of Delphacidae with which the writer is acquainted there are two medio-longitudinal carinae on the face which, in certain species amalgamate to a greater or lesser extent, the extent of amalgamation being variable. For this reason it has been necessary to place certain genera in two or three locations. With a wider knowledge of the species of certain genera, and their variations, than the writer possesses it is highly probable that more definite characterisation can be constructed.

Tibial spines of the hind legs have been used for taxonomic purposes, but they do not appear to be of great value for there is great specific variation; usually there is one at the base, one about middle and several at apex. It is possible that the proportional length of the first joint of hind tarsus and the absence or presence of one or two spines near the middle can be used more than they have been, also the proportional length of the front tibiae.

For specific work it is absolutely necessary that the male genitalia be examined, and a use of it for generic distinction is possible in certain groups.

In the orismology the writer has used the term vertex as indicating that portion of the head, excluding the eyes, which can

*An extreme case of this nature is found in the Derbid genus *Zoraida* in which the face is only a narrow carina (composed of two carinae more or less amalgamated) between the eyes; in the nymph the face is broad with two median carinae well separated. In the adult the wide face still exists but is invaginated medio-longitudinally, the outer carinae of the nymph forming the narrow face of the adult. This can be demonstrated by boiling a head of *Z. insulicola* (perhaps any other species) in caustic potash when the face will open. Several genera have been erected upon slightly widened faces (i.e. *Shirakia* and *Zoraidoides*) some of which are likely to be found to be imperfectly developed *Zoraida*.