

Anoplura, placing the mandibulate families with Orthoptera, and the suctorial Pediculiæ with Hemiptera.

Having thus exhibited the elementary characters upon which the orders are based, the special subject of the present treatise may now occupy the attention of the student.

In order that the body of the work may be made intelligible to the beginner, it will be necessary to make a brief exposition of the external anatomy of Coleopterous insects, before attempting to define the numerous families which compose the order. The three regions, the head, thorax, and abdomen, will therefore be taken up in succession.

### HEAD.

The anterior portion of the body is called the *head*; it varies greatly in form, and is joined by membrane to the prothorax. Usually the hind portion is but slightly narrowed, and enters the anterior part of the prothorax; sometimes the part behind the eyes is suddenly narrowed and constricted, forming a neck, or gradually narrowed and much prolonged, articulating with the prothorax by a semiglobular condyle, as in some Carabidæ and the Brentidæ.

The surface of the head consists of a solid horny plate; above, it is frequently marked by a single suture, running transversely between or in front of the antennæ; this is called the *clypeal* or *frontal suture*. The portion in front of this suture, when dilated so as to project over the mouth, as in many Scarabæidæ, is called the *clypeus*; when small it is named *epistoma*, and is sometimes membranous or coriaceous, instead of horny like the rest of the surface. The anterior portion of the head is sometimes prolonged, so that the distance between the eyes and mouth parts is greater in length than the rest of the head; when thus formed the head is called *rostrate*, and the prolonged portion the *rostrum* or *beak*. The *rostrum* varies greatly in form and length; it is often not narrower than the head and even shorter, rarely, as in *Balaninus*, very slender, almost filiform, and as long as the entire body. The presence of the rostrum is quite general in the sub-order Rhynchophora, but not characteristic of it, as the rostrum is often absent here and present in other isolated genera of the Coleopterous series.