

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFICATION AND NOMENCLATURE
OF THE HEMIPTEROUS SUPERFAMILY MIROIDEA.

BY G. W. KIRKALDY, HONOLULU, H. I.

Since the final impression of my "List of the genera of the Pagipodous Hemiptera Heteroptera," etc. (a), I have received from my friend, Dr. O. M. Reuter, a very valuable summary of his most recent thoughts on the Classification of the Miridæ (b).

Dr. Reuter's polemic has been evoked by the Hemipterous work of Mr. Distant, particularly that dealing with the Miridæ (or "Capsidæ") in the *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, Heteroptera, Vol. I, and the *Fauna of British India*, Rhynchota, Vol. II. In the latter Mr. Distant avers that Reuter's classification of the Miridæ "is more reflective of personal opinion, and contrived for the purposes of entomological arrangement, than exhibiting an evolutionary or philosophical conception" (pp. 412-3), and thereupon divides the Miridæ into two subfamilies, characterized by the presence or absence of "a longitudinal incision or sulcation on the upper surface" of the head (!).

Reuter declares that this emphatic judgment is as unjustified as it is untrue, and that it is, at least, unseemly for an author whose studies on Hemipterous systematics are so superficial as are those of Mr. Distant, to pass so judicial a sentence.

The learned Finlander proceeds to refute Mr. Distant in great detail, first tracing the evolution of our knowledge of the classification, from Fieber, in 1858, onwards; he next discusses, at considerable length, various salient points in the characteristic structure of the family, and presents two new synopses, and a genealogical tree, of the divisions. This "Classification" is without doubt one of the most important of the Heteropterous memoirs that has appeared for a long time, and represents the almost mature fruits of Dr. Reuter's many years of assiduous devotion to his favourite family. It is impossible to summarize here the fifty-eight pages, further than to reproduce, in English, the analytical table of the accepted divisions; the form of the table has been altered, while preserving its matter. The tribe *Lygaeoscytini* (c) and the genus

(a) *Tr. Amer. Ent. Soc.*, XXXII, 117-56 (1906).

(b) "Hemipterologische Spekulationen, I, Die Klassifikation der Capsiden," *Festschr. für Palmén*, No. 1, pp. 1-58, and a genealogical Table. [Dated 1905, at Helsingfors, but probably not issued till 1906.]

(c) I prefer the ending "*ini*" to "*aria*," as more in line with general nomenclature.