

BOOK NOTICE.

The Carnegie Museum has just issued a magnificent volume of over 300 pages, by Dr. Wm. H. Ashmead, on the Classification of the Hymenopterous Superfamily Chalcidoidea. (Classification of the Chalcid Flies of the Superfamily Chalcidoidea. Mem. Carnegie Museum, Vol. 1, No. 4, pp. 326 + XII, pls. 9. Jan., 1904.)

The work is divided into two parts, the first of which includes tables for the separation of all the known genera in the group, while the second deals with the species occurring in South America.

Fourteen families of Chalcids are recognized and over six hundred genera. Many of the latter are characterized for the first time in the present work. Under each family and tribe is given a brief consideration of the affinities and general habits of the respective groups. These are of material aid to the student in identifying specimens by means of the dichotomies.

A good idea of the extreme completeness with which the work has been done may be gathered from the fact that, in the entire complex, there are only six genera which are unknown to the author and not classified.

The second part of the paper includes descriptions of nearly 200 new species of South American Chalcids and a complete synonymical catalogue of all the species from that continent, besides tables for the determination of the species in some of the larger genera.

It is to be hoped that the appearance of this work will give an impetus to the collecting and studying of this economically very important group. Dr. Ashmead may most certainly be congratulated on having done his share in placing the classification within easy attainment and giving at the same time one of the most important contributions on American Hymenoptera ever published.

It may also be mentioned that the volume is very nicely printed and quite free from typographical errors. The nine plates which accompany it include well-executed figures of some fifty South American genera.

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