

ment, and the claws are either cleft or toothed. The chief development of the group in North America is to be found in the regions lying to the westward of the Missouri River and southward of the Platte. Here the species of *Cantharis* and *Pyrota* abound, and, with representatives of several peculiar genera which are unknown in the Eastern districts, give to the fauna a facies which is unmistakable. Some of these Southwestern forms are of considerable size, *Macrobasis longicollis*, Lec., reaching the length of an inch, while *M. atrivittata* is even larger, and is, besides, of great beauty. *Cysteodemus Wislizeni*, Lec., is remarkable on account of its form—the elytra being convex and inflated, giving a comical appearance of obesity to the insect. In colour it is of a bright blue, and a more curious species in most respects does not exist in our fauna.

The genera reported from Canada may be readily separated by the following table :—

Elytra short, overlapping along the suture and leaving most of the abdomen exposed. Wings absent. . . . . *Meloe*.

Elytra long, almost or quite covering the abdomen, not overlapping at suture. Wings usually present.

Second joint of antennæ as long or longer than the third ; first joint elongate in the male . . . . . *Macrobasis*.

Second joint of antennæ shorter than the third, usually not more than half as long.

Antennæ not thickened towards the tip, setaceous, usually much longer than the head and thorax. Surface of body not metallic. . . . . *Epicauta*.

Antennæ scarcely longer than the head and thorax, much thickened towards the tip ; the outer joints short and broad. Labrum deeply emarginate at middle. . . . . *Pomphopæa*.

Antennæ extending beyond base of thorax, the joints bead-like in form ; labrum slightly emarginate at middle. Surface of body metallic. . . . . *Cantharis*.

It will be understood that the above characters are not of necessity essential, and that they are intended to apply only to the Canadian forms constituting the genera. Several species of *Cantharis* from other regions are not metallic, and there is a great range of variation in the form of the antennæ. This matter is discussed more fully in Dr. Horn's papers, the titles of which may be found in the bibliography.