

Abroad, the wasps belonging to this family are known as "ruby-tailed flies" and "gold-wasps."

Cuckoo wasps is a better name for them. They are among the handsomest of all wasps, being most frequently of a brilliant metallic green, blue-green, blue, purplish or cupreous; they are rarely wholly black, and still more rarely variegated with yellow or testaceous.

All the species are parasitic or inquilinous, principally in the nests of bees and wasps. The potter-wasps (*Eumenidae*) and the leaf-cutting bees (*Megachilidae*, subfamily *Osmiinae*) are especially subject to their attacks; they have also been bred from the nests of other bees and wasps, and a few are said to have been bred from the larvae of sawflies (*Tenthredinoidea*).

Dahlbom was among the first to separate the family into groups, which he called families. He established six families: (1) *Cleptidae*, (2) *Elampidae*, (3) *Hedychridae*, (4) *Chrysididae*, (5) *Euchraidae*, and (6) *Parnopidae*. All of these, except the *Euchraidae*, are natural groups, recognized to-day as subfamilies, and he, and not Aaron and Mocsary, should receive credit for first pointing them out.

In 1889 an excellent monograph of this family, entitled "Monographia Chrysidarum orbis terrarum universi," was published by Alexander Mocsary, at Buda-Pesth, Hungary. It is a large 4to, of 643 pages, illustrated with two plates, gives a full bibliography of the family, tables for recognizing the subfamilies and genera, and terminates with a list of the hosts from which these wasps have been bred. It is the best work ever published on the family, and will be found indispensable to the student.

Mocsary, in this work, recognized seven subfamilies: (1) *Amiseginae*, (2) *Cleptinae*, (3) *Allovelinae*, (4) *Ellampinae*, (5) *Hedychrinae*, (6) *Chrysidinae*, and (7) *Parnopinae*.

In 1890, after this work had been published, Mocsary established another subfamily, the *Adelphinae*, based upon a Mexican genus, *Adelpha*, placing it next to the *Amiseginae*. In my opinion this subfamily does not represent a natural group, and I have here merged it with the *Cleptinae*.

It will also be observed that I have not followed Mocsary in his arrangement of the subfamilies. My reasons for this are simple. I believe the family *Chrysididae*, through the *Cleptinae* and the *Amiseginae*, is quite closely allied to the family *Bethylidae*, and by the arrangement here proposed, a very natural transition into this family is shown. The *Parnopinae*, although very far removed, appear to me to approach nearest