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## A PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DECTICIDÆ.

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Having recently put my own collection of Decticidæ into systematic order and treated the collection of the U. S. National Museum entrusted to me by Dr. C. V. Riley in a similar manner, I have thought it would assist in obtaining better material for a future monograph if I were to publish at least a generic discrimination of the material at hand. At the same time I am able to clear up most of the synonymy of the species and assign to their proper location the various described species, very few of which (7 out of 23) will be found to have been originally placed in the genera to which they are here assigned. This is partly because it has been necessary to establish new generic categories for a large number of our species, which are very insufficiently known, having awaited a student ever since Herman's sketch of the genera of Decticidæ twenty years ago. In the course of another year I hope to make a complete study, and not only to characterize the genera more carefully, but to describe the numerous species here indicated. It is evident that in the West a considerable number of species are likely to occur additional to those now known to me, which number about fifty, divided among fifteen genera, five of which are monotypic, and only one of which is found also in the Old World. Much might be said regarding the geographical distribution of the genera, but I will reserve that for a future occasion.

### TABLE FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE GENERA OF N. A. DECTICIDÆ.

- a1. Prosternum armed with two erect spines.
  - b1. Four terminal spines on the lower side of the hind femora, two smaller ones between a larger pair.
    - c1. Ovipositor straight.
      - d1. Prosternal spines short, obtuse. . . . . *Engoniaspis*.
      - d2. Prosternal spines long and slender, sub-acute . . . . . *Atlanticus*.