

THE COLEOPTERA OF CANADA.

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XI. THE HYDROPHILIDÆ OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

These water-beetles differ from Dytiscidæ especially in having the antennæ terminated by a distinct club instead of being filiform; and while, as the name implies, they are usually found in ponds or streams, they are much more feeble swimmers than the Dytiscids, and are exponents of a more generalized type. Several genera are truly terrestrial in habit, the beetles occurring about decomposing animal matter or in manure. The larvæ somewhat resemble those of the Dytiscidæ in general appearance, but differ so far as my experience goes in having toothed mandibles instead of the single suctional ones characteristic of the other family. Pupation takes place on land in an underground cell, or in a cavity scooped out beneath a stone or piece of wood.

The generic table is based chiefly on the characters used in the LeConte and Horn "Classification," and it is hoped will prove useful. Care must be given the small specimens, and it will be found impracticable to separate them without a good lens. The genera recorded in the Canadian lists separate as follows:—

- A. Prothorax narrower than the elytra, and usually narrowed behind; form elongate, sculpture usually rough.
 - b. Elytra with ten striæ or rows of punctures, max. palpi moderate.
 - c. Last joint of max. palpi longer than preceding.
 - Antennæ 9-jointed..... *Helophorus*.
 - Antennæ 7-jointed..... *Hydrochus*.
 - cc. Last joint of max. palpi shorter than preceding. *Ochthebius*.
 - bb. Elytra with more than ten rows of punctures, maxillary palpi very long..... *Hydrena*.
 - AA. Prothorax at base as wide as the elytra, narrowed anteriorly. Form usually convex, oval or elliptical, sculpture usually weak.
 - d. Middle and hind tarsi with first joint short.
 - e. Tarsi compressed, metasternum with distinct spine.
 - f. Prosternum sulcate, metasternal spine long.
 - Large species (over 1 in. long), last joint of max. palpi shorter than the preceding..... *Hydrophilus*.
 - Smaller species (less than ½ in. long), last joint of max. palpi equal to or longer than preceding..... *Tropisternus*.
 - ff. Prosternum carinate, metasternal spine short.. *Hydrocharis*.