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CLASSIFICATION OF THE FOSSORIAL, PREDACEOUS AND PARASITIC WASPS, OR THE SUPERFAMILY VESPOIDEA.

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(Paper No. 6.—Continued from p. 137.)

FAMILY XXVIII.—Vespidæ.

This family is restricted to the paper-making wasps, all social species living in large communities and having three distinct sexes, female, worker, and male, thus agreeing with the social bees, the *Apidæ* and *Bombidæ*, and with many ants, *Dorylidæ*, *Myrmicidæ*, *Formicidæ*, etc.

In some species, too, like the ants, there appear to be two forms of the worker.

Deceived by their habits, for structurally they are widely separated, Westwood and Packard thought the social wasps were allied to the *Apidæ*, and in their scheme of classification have placed them next to the bees, with which they have nothing in common.

Cresson, Kirby and most late writers seem to have followed them, but in my opinion it is clearly an unnatural position; they have no relationship whatever with the bees, and are a component of this great complex, but with affinities, through some exotic forms, allying them with the next great complex, or the superfamily FORMICOIDEA.

Two very distinct groups, here called subfamilies, have been recognized. They were first correctly indicated by C. G. Thomson, the distinguished Swedish entomologist, who called them tribes.

Table of Subfamilies.

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| Hind wings entire, <i>without</i> an anal lobe, mesepisterna not separated | Subfamily I.—Vespinæ. |
| Hind wings <i>with</i> a distinct anal lobe; mesepisterna separated | Subfamily II.—Polistinæ. |