

NOTES ON CORIXIDÆ NO. 1 [HEM.].

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Species of the Corixidæ cannot be mistaken for those of any other family of Hemiptera. The remarkable structure of the mouth-parts (which caused Börner to elevate the family into a separate suborder, Sandalicorhyncha), and, in the males, the possession of two sets (apparently) of stridulating organs, abundantly separate them from any other family. Although not so specially adapted, to our eyes, for such a life, the Corixidæ have gained a more complete mastery over the problems of aquatic existence than their relatives, the Notonectidæ and Naucoridæ, if we may judge by the much greater number of their species.

The structure of the Corixidæ is extremely interesting, and there are probably no other insects whose males can boast of at least four separate secondary sexual characters (of these, two are of great specific importance). Their stridulation and general biology have recently been briefly summarized by myself.*

The genera of Corixidæ may be tabulated as follows :

1. Scutellum covered by pronotum only at the anterior margin(2).
- 1a. Scutellum covered (except sometimes at posterior angle) by pronotum(4).
2. Metapleura simple. Minute species, never over 5 mill. long(3).
- 2a. Metapleura deeply impressed behind, forming so-called "parapleura"; species over 6 mill. long 3, *Diaprepocoris*, Kirkaldy.
3. Pronotum truncate, or (generally) convex behind 1, *Micronecta*, Kirkaldy.
- 3a. Pronotum roundly emarginate behind 2, *Tenagobia*, Bergroth.
4. Males(5).
- 4a. Females(10).
5. Strigil absent(6).
- 5a. Strigil present(7).
6. No stridular area; hind tarsi not marked with black ... 4, *Cymatia*, Flor.
- 6a. Stridular area present; hind tarsi usually marked conspicuously with black (the segment itself, not the fringe of hairs only) 5, *Callicorixa*, White.

*"The stridulating organs of Water-bugs, especially of Corixidæ," 1901, J. Quekett Micr. Club (2), viii, 33-46, Pls. 3-4 (often cited as "Quebec!"), and "A Guide to the Study of British Water-bugs," 1905, ENTOMOLOGIST, XXXVIII, 231-6, etc.