

INTRODUCTION.

THIS Volume gives an account of seven Families of Serricorn Coleoptera. The Buprestidæ have been dealt with by Mr. C. O. Waterhouse, the Throscidæ and Eucnemidæ by Dr. G. H. Horn, and the Elateridæ, Cibrionidæ, Rhipidoceridæ, and Dascillidæ by myself. At the end of the Volume a supplementary Appendix to the Buprestidæ, Throscidæ, and Eucnemidæ is given, contributed by Mr. Waterhouse and myself.

The total number of species enumerated for the whole of the Families is 1353, of which 805 are described as new, the genera numbering 178, with twenty-eight new. Some general remarks on the Central-American Buprestidæ, Throscidæ, and Eucnemidæ are given on pp. 1, 193, and 210 respectively, and it will only be necessary to give here a summary of the remaining Families, with a short analysis of the others.

The Buprestidæ is one of the larger Families of Coleoptera, the total number of species for the whole world (Kerremans, 1891) being 4201, belonging to 185 genera. The number of species enumerated by Mr. Waterhouse in the first part of this Volume is 434, 300 of these being described as new, the number of genera being forty-eight, with four new. But, since the conclusion of his work, in December 1889, no fewer than fifty-four species from Mexico, and one genus, have been added by M. Kerremans and the late E. Dugès, and two species from the same country have been described by Mr. Waterhouse. It may be remarked, however, that most of the insects described by M. Kerremans were found in the refuse of imported Mexican tobacco in Paris, and that their origin in every case requires corroboration (tobacco from Brazil, &c. being stowed in the same building); and that Dugès paid very little attention to Mr. Waterhouse's work, hence many of his species are certain to prove synonymous with others previously described. A list of these is given in the Appendix, with some remarks by Mr. Waterhouse, who has also added descriptions of two others on pp. 664 and 666 respectively. The total number of species known from America north of Mexico is about 280 (Henshaw, 1895), belonging to thirty-two genera.