

STATIRA.

Statira, Lepeletier de St.-Fargeau & Serville, Encycl. méthod. x. p. 479 (1825); Lacordaire, Gen. Col. v. p. 571.

Ninety-five species of this genus have been described, and probably almost as many again exist unnamed in collections. *Statira* is perhaps the most characteristic genus of Heteromera in Tropical America, and an immense number of species no doubt exist there, each limited area possessing numerous representatives. The genus ranges from the Middle United States to the Argentine Republic; but its members become much fewer in number northwards, six only being known from north of our northern boundary. From Central America we have now to record no less than eighty species, three or four only of which are at all widely distributed within this area; and one only of the total number is known to us from south of our region. Two species from the warmer parts of the Old World have also been referred to *Statira**. Some of the Central-American representatives bear a close resemblance to various forms of Carabidæ inhabiting the same districts, notably to certain species of *Agra*, *Colpodes*, *Calleida*, *Euproctus*, *Dromius*, and *Leptotrachelus*; others from Tropical South America resemble *Casnonia*. Mäklin is the only author who appears to have paid very much attention to the Tropical-American *Statiræ*; but he appears to have chiefly confined himself to the species of Brazil, Colombia †, and Mexico, most of those catalogued from these countries having been described (and some of those of the older authors redescribed) by him. It must be remarked that in numerous cases this author has, probably from insufficiency of material, placed far too much importance upon colour as a specific character; and in the descriptions of three of his Mexican species (two of which, *S. decorata* and *S. cyanipennis*, are here referred to other genera) no mention whatever is made of their more important structural characters, though the colour is given at great length. Examples found under bark, often not fully mature, are sometimes, as might be expected, lighter in colour than those found upon herbage; and wholly castaneous or testaceous forms occur of several of the metallic æneous species, as *S. glabrata*, *S. ærata*, &c. Other species, *S. inconstans*, *S. irregularis*, *S. nigripennis*, &c., are also very inconstant in colour, these having the elytra striped or spotted in some examples and unicolorous in others. All the species here included in *Statira* agree in having (so far as can be ascertained from an external examination in some cases, as regards the mouth-parts) the apical joint of the labial palpi narrow and ovate; the mandibles simply unidentate or feebly bifid; the outer lobe of the maxillæ comparatively narrow; the anterior coxæ moderately exerted and not contiguous, the prosternum narrowly raised between them, usually to the level of the coxæ (thus differing from *Lagria*, *Emydodes*, *Arthromacra*, and, probably, *Eutrapela* also); the femora gradually widening from the

* One of these, *S. rufobrunnea*, Mars., from Japan, does not belong to this genus as here understood.

† Our numerous species from the State of Panama cannot be identified with either of these.