

INTRODUCTION.

THIS Volume, one of five required for the enumeration of the Rhynchophora, was commenced by Dr. Sharp in 1889 and is now concluded by myself. The study of the "Otiiorhynchinae Alatae" has unfortunately been delayed for many years, during the publication of Vol. IV. parts 4, 5, and 7, all of which are devoted to the Family Curculionidæ. The present Volume, IV. part 3, includes the Subfamilies Attelabinæ, Pterocolinæ, Allocoryninæ, Apioninæ, Thecesterninæ, and Otiiorhynchinae. The Attelabinæ are represented by 104 (88 new), the Pterocolinæ by three (all new), the Allocoryninæ (a new subfamily) and Thecesterninæ each by one, the Apioninæ by 88 (84 new), and the Otiiorhynchinae by 419 (340 new) species respectively; the total number for the six subfamilies being 616 species, with 516 new, and forty new genera. Amongst the 419 Otiiorhynchinae, the apterous and winged forms are almost equal in number, there being a preponderance of apterous terrestrial species (*Eupagoderes*, *Epicærus*, *Epagriopsis*, &c.) in the arid portions of Mexico and the winged forms (*Exophthalmus*, &c.) becoming relatively more numerous in the forest regions southward. Taking the Curculionidæ as a whole—the subfamilies Curculioninæ and Calandrinæ, in addition to those worked out in the present Volume,—the number of species enumerated altogether from Central America is as follows:—Vol. IV. part 3, 616; IV. part 4, 1365; IV. part 5, 908; IV. part 7, 344: total 3233. The three other families of Rhynchophora—the Brenthidæ, Scolytidæ, and Anthribidæ,—dealt with in Vol. IV. part 6, number 615 species, thus bringing the total for the whole of the weevils up to 3848. The Rhynchophora, therefore, as anticipated (though not to the extent roughly estimated by myself in the Introduction to Vol. IV. part 4 of this series), greatly outnumber the Phytophaga (2619, including the Hispidæ and Cassididæ) within our limits.